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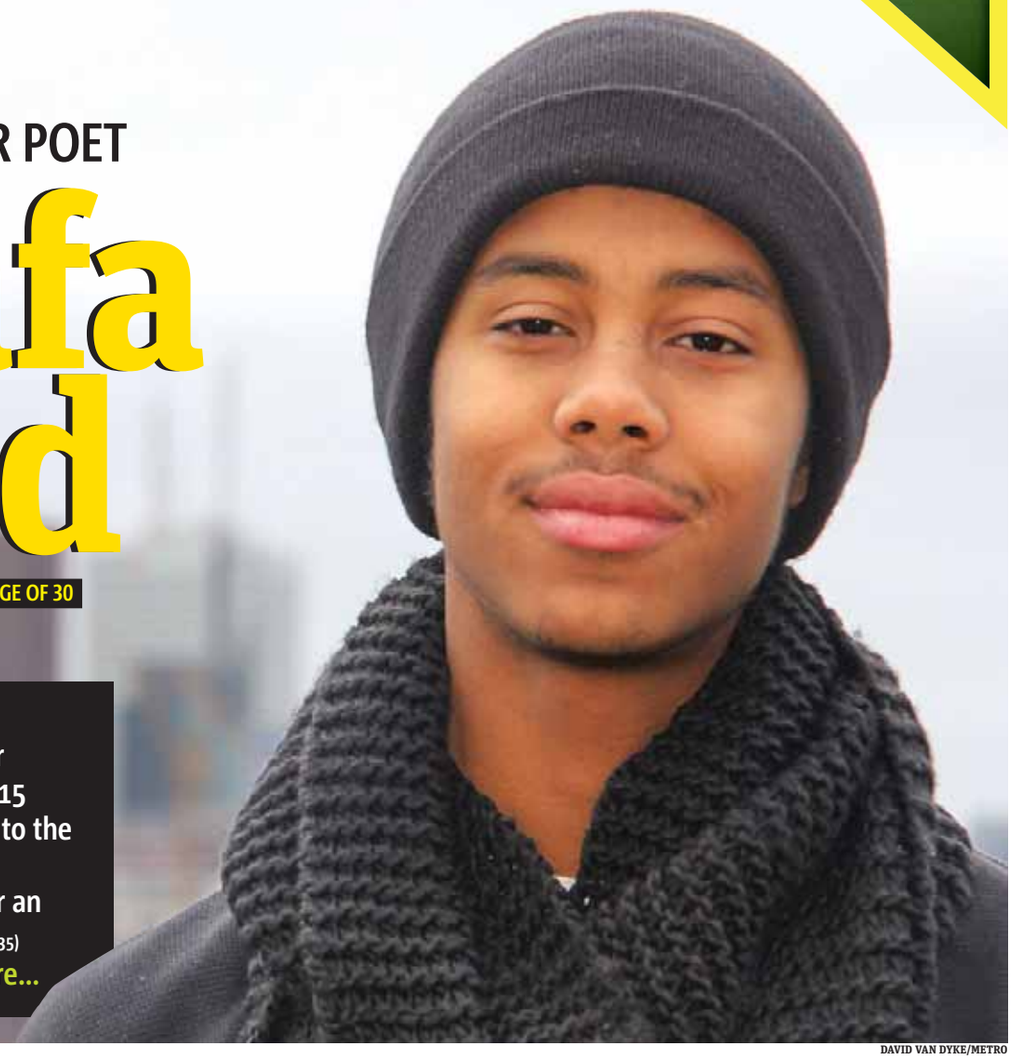
TORONTO 2015: ONE TO WATCH

THE BEST IS YET TO COME FOR POET

Mustafa Ahmed

STORY ON PAGE 4 — PLUS, MEET 3 MORE INFLUENCERS UNDER THE AGE OF 30



DAVID VAN DYKE/METRO

INSIDE:

- It's not enough to talk about sexual assault — we need action (Pg 14)
- Matt Elliott's New Year's resolution for Toronto (Pg 26)
- Are we any closer to that far-flung 2015 envisioned in Back to the Future 2? (Pg 29)
- Folks, it's time for an etiquette lesson (Pg 35)

and more...

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Where the party's at

Your ride, your booze, your last-minute outfit — Metro has the details to help you ring in the new year right.

GILBERT NGABO/METRO

Revellers celebrate at New Year's Eve festivities at Nathan Phillips Square. RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

The better way

TTC will run free service from 7 p.m. on New Year's Eve to 7 a.m. on New Year's Day. Regular service hours will be extended until 4 a.m., with the Blue Night Network running between 4 a.m. and 7 a.m.

Liquid plans

All Beer Store/LCBO retail stores and distribution centres will close at 6 p.m. on New Year's Eve. They'll be closed New Year's Day.

Shopping: What's open/ closed

- **Yorkdale.** Dec. 31, 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m.; Jan. 1, closed
- Eaton Centre: Dec. 31, 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m.; Jan. 1, noon to 5 p.m.
- **Fairview Mall.** Dec. 31, 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m.; Jan. 1, closed
- **Sherway Gardens.** Dec. 31, 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m.; Jan. 1, closed
- **Scarborough Town Centre.** Dec. 31, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Jan. 1, closed
- **Vaughan Mills.** Dec. 31, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Jan. 1,10 a.m.-7 p.m.
- **Dufferin Mall.** Dec. 31, 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Jan. 1, closed
- **Square One.** Dec. 31, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Jan. 1, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
- **Pacific Mall.** Dec. 31, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Jan. 1,11 a.m.-8:00 p.m.
- **East York Town Centre.** Dec. 31, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Jan. 1, closed

Party like it's 2015

1. Nathan Phillips Square. From 8 p.m. to midnight with entertainment and live music. Mayor John Tory is expected to count down the new year before the fireworks. Free event.

2. Annual New Year's Skating Party. At the Harbourfront Centre from 8 p.m. to midnight. Free.

3. ROM For the Holidays. A celebration of wildlife on New Year's Eve. Visitors can enjoy live animals, wacky and wonderful plants, activities, crafts and more. Regular prices for entrance. From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

4. Toronto Midnite New Year's Eve Run. 5K run through King Liberty Village area; A chance to see fireworks with a party after the race. Registration is $85, $45 for just the party.

5. Toronto Zoo's New Year's Eve Family Countdown. A chance for families to welcome 2015 while enjoying entertainment and meeting some animals. An earlier event for younger people runs from 5 to 8 p.m.

6. Countdown to NYE 2015. Concert and DJs ring in the new year at Exhibition Place starting at 10 p.m. 19-plus event; tickets start at $40.

7. New Year's Eve Comedy Extravaganza. At Massey Hall, comedian Tom Green will host an event that promises to be "high-wire comic." Starts at 7:30 p.m.; tickets from $38.50.

8. Toronto's Largest Singles New Year's Eve Party. You might meet your someone at Courthouse (57 Adelaide St. E.) starting at 8 p.m. Tickets are $49.

9. NYE Cruise. The cruise ship in the Toronto Harbour leaves at 8 p.m. and docks at 1 a.m. on Jan. 1. Tickets go for $119.95 plus tax.

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...see pg 11 for more!

TORONTO 2015: ONE TO WATCH

Local poet poised for big year

Interview. Mustafa Ahmed sees 'greatness' on the horizon for Toronto — and he's preparing for some great things himself with the Pan Am Games and a new record

LUKE SIMCOE
Metro Online

Mustafa Ahmed travelled the world in 2014, performing spoken word for crowds across Canada and as far away as Egypt.

After a year of going global, the young poet from Regent Park wants to focus on the local.

"I planted a lot of seeds last year. Now I want to watch them grow," he says.

"And everything in Toronto is poised for greatness. Everything from our art scene to our sports teams — think about the Raptors and how far they've come."

It's no coincidence that Ahmed quickly turns the conversation to sports. The 18-year-old has been chosen as the poet laureate for the 2015 Toronto Pan Am Games in July. He's writing three poems for the event and will be performing live at the ceremonies.

"I've already finished the first poem," he says. "It's about risk, tenacity and the power of your imagination."

After touring internationally with the We Day festival — organized by Toronto-based charity Free the Children — Ahmed has returned to his hometown to record and release a second album.

"It's going to be very different from my last record," he says. "I want it to be reflective of what I see in the city."

That vision is indelibly coloured by his experience growing up in Toronto's Regent Park, the oldest and largest housing project in Canada.

"Wherever I go, Regent Park is always on my mind," he says.

Ahmed grew up in the neighbourhood during an intense period of development. While revitalization has brought new schools, safer streets and a thriving arts scene to the community, it has also displaced many former residents — including Ahmed and his family.

"I'm so proud of what Regent Park has been able to accomplish," says Mustafa Ahmed. LUKE SIMCOE/METRO

"I'm so proud of what Regent Park has been able to accomplish," he says. "But it's gentrifying for sure.

"There's a wave of new people coming in, and there's a risk that we'll lose the sense of community."

To help bridge the gap between Regent Park's past and present, Ahmed acts as a mentor to youths in the area. His Writing from Scratch workshops have become a forum for young people with roots in the neighbourhood to air their feelings about issues like gentrification and racial profiling by police.

"I still get harassed by police," he says. "I get stopped at least once a week."

Ahmed has been writing poetry since he was 10 and spent his teenage years in the spotlight.

Set to celebrate his 19th birthday in 2015, he's eager to shed the child-prodigy tag.

"I want to be seen as an artist, not a young artist," he says. "I want the work to be ageless."

Quoted

"I planted a lot of seeds last year. Now I want to watch them grow."

Mustafa Ahmed

TORONTO 2015: 3 MORE INFLUENCERS UNDER 30

Idil Burale: Setting a '21st-century mandate' for cops

If you want to change the city, change its police force, says Idil Burale.

Burale, 29, is of Somali descent and hails from the outskirts of Etobicoke. She made headlines earlier this year when she mounted an evocative but unsuccessful bid for a council seat in Ward 1.

Burale is now focused on reforming the city's police service. She's an external adviser to the Police and Community Engagement Review (the PACER project), which will spend much of 2015 tackling issues like carding and perceived racial biases among officers.

"We need a 21st-century mandate for the police," Burale says. "And we need to ask some tough questions about how the pursuit of law enforcement contributes to the growing divisions within Toronto."

In a city where some residents' experience of government consists of interactions with police, Burale says there's a link between modernizing law enforcement and making politics feel more accessible for minority youth.

"If you don't see the police as legitimate, how are you going to see the city as legitimate?" she asks. LUKE SIMCOE/METRO

Alyssa Bird: Vowing something 'bigger, better' for Open Streets

If you enjoyed a leisurely stroll down Yonge Street — in the middle of the road — this summer, you have Alyssa Bird to thank.

Bird, 25, was a key member of Open Streets T.O., the group that campaigned successfully to close Bloor and Yonge streets to vehicle traffic one morning in August.

With the backing of some high-profile politicians, including Ward 27 Coun. Kristyn Wong-Tam, Bird is promising "a bigger, better Open Streets T.O. in 2015."

"Having the opportunity to use Yonge and Bloor, two of our most iconic streets, in a new way changes the conversation around how we use our streets," Bird says.

"We've got a lot of public support now, and we demonstrated that we can get it done and the whole world isn't going to come crashing down."

As for her personal plans, Bird wants to spend the next year getting to know the city better.

"I'm really passionate about place," she says. "There's still so much exploring to do in Toronto and so much to see beyond the downtown."

LUKE SIMCOE/METRO

Taylor Scollon: Filling the transit void

Since moving to Toronto in June, Taylor Scollon has helped get a mayor elected and launched a crowd-funded bus service for Liberty Village residents squeezed out of the King streetcar.

Not bad for six months work.

Scollon, 24, is one of the founders of Line Six, a startup aimed at connecting transit-starved residents with shuttle buses. The company ran a successful pilot project in Liberty Village in October and will be officially launching in the new year.

"One of the big benefits of technology is that it helps people who might not have otherwise been able to create change in their communities," he says. "In the case of Line Six, it lets people provide transit services to communities that need them but aren't getting them."

Scollon is also a partner at Adrenaline, a digital marketing agency that worked on John Tory's mayoral campaign. And his 2015 calendar is packed with work on Line Six: The company plans to seek venture capital in the spring and is musing about expanding to the Junction.

LUKE SIMCOE/METRO

TORONTO 2015: COURT

Trials to watch

We saw a lot of big names land in court this year, which means there will be a lot of courtroom drama to watch in 2015. These are some of the major criminal cases to follow next year, according to Toronto defence lawyer Daniel Brown.

JESSICA SMITH CROSS
jessica.smithcross@metronews.ca

Sandro Lisi

Rob Ford's friend and driver Alexander (Sandro) Lisi is expected to go on trial for charges of extortion, as well as trafficking in marijuana, possession of the proceeds of crime, possession of marijuana and conspiracy to commit an indictable offence.

Lisi is accused of extorting Liban Siyad and Mohamed Siad in attempts to get the first Ford crack video.

There is no guarantee the public will get a chance to see the crack video in the course of the Lisi trial because it is possible it won't be used as evidence, Brown said.

Sandro Lisi

"The allegations of extortion over the video don't necessarily require the Crown to prove even the video existed," Brown said.

Ford has been subpoenaed. "We can expect Rob Ford might come to court and testify, presuming he's healthy enough to do so," Brown said.

James Forcillo

James Forcillo is charged with second-degree murder and attempted murder in the July 2013 streetcar shooting death of Sammy Yatim.

His trial will be a rare one — a police officer charged with murder.

Yatim, 18, was allegedly holding a knife on an empty Dundas West streetcar when he was shot eight times. Cellphone video and surveillance video of the shooting have been seen by the public and spurred anti-police violence protests across the city.

James Forcillo

Forcillo was initially suspended from the police force without pay, but he returned to work in an administrative role last February.

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Jian Ghomeshi

The case against former Q radio host Jian Ghomeshi will make its way through the court system and may go to trial in 2015, said Brown.

Ghomeshi is a charged with four counts of sexual assault and one count of "overcome resistance, choking" involving three victims.

Details of the case will be made public in the new year, but the identity of two of the women accusing him of sexual assault will remain covered by a publication ban.

Jian Ghomeshi

The third, actress Lucy DeCoutere, requested to be named publicly.

Dellen Millard

Dellen Millard faces three counts of first-degree murder, including one for the death of Tim Bosma.

Bosma went missing after leaving his Ancaster, Ont., home to take the truck he was selling on a test drive. His burned remains were later found on Millard's farm.

Mark Smich is also charged in that homicide.

Millard is also charged with first-degree murder of his father and the death of Laura Babcock, a friend who went missing in June 2012.

Dellen Millard

"It's rare to prosecute all cases together," said Brown. "We would expect it to be consecutive trials."

Justin Bieber

Justin Bieber, accused of dangerous driving and assaulting a member of the paparazzi, could face a trial in Stratford, Ont., Brown said.

Bieber himself has not made a court appearance in the case, disappointing the Beliebers who have been on hand to catch a glimpse.

"If his case goes to trial, we can expect him there," said Brown.

Justin Bieber

TORONTO 2015: COUNCIL

What they'll do for you in 2015

New faces at Toronto City Hall outline their plans for the new year.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
rosemary.westwood@metronews.ca

Mayor John Tory has promised a more amicable city council, cozier relationships with other levels of government and action on transit and traffic.

But there are seven other new faces sitting in the council chamber who want to make an impact next year and shape the city's path. Metro asked Toronto's new council members to name their top priority for 2015. Here's what they said.

Stephen Holyday, Ward 3 Etobicoke Centre

"There are a number of construction development proposals which have my neighbours concerned about ensuring responsible change.

Local people know the history and daily life of our neighbourhoods better than anyone else, but are often overlooked.

Ensuring early feedback on proposals, and balanced representation of resident stakeholders' input to change decisions is of paramount importance.

Individuals, business owners, associations and community groups need help to unite and focus their voices so that they can influence the decisions by the numerous authorities that govern approval of these development projects, and control the subsequent reinvestments into the community infrastructure.

I will use the councillor's office to develop a communication network and support process to connect resident stakeholders horizontally across city departments, agencies, and developers to gather information, build consensus early, avoid conflicts, and lessen the need for adjudicative dispute resolution.

Accessing the right information, and providing strong and focused feedback at the right time in the process will benefit all those involved."

Toronto City Hall was a hotbed of activity in 2014 with much of it focused on the scandals of former mayor Rob Ford. It could be just as interesting in 2015 with fresh faces in the mix. GETTY IMAGES

Joe Cressy, Ward 20 Trinity-Spadina

"Everything starts with having a roof over your head, whether it be finding work, educational success, or simply living in dignity.

Over the coming year, downtown Toronto, and Ward 20, will continue to grow with new, and proposed, developments.

A growing city is a healthy city, but in 2015 we must ensure that as we grow, we grow in an equitable way — and that starts with affordable housing.

Working closely with the diverse, engaged communities in Ward 20, our 2015 goal is to ensure that all new developments in the ward include a commitment to supporting affordable housing.

Building affordable housing is not a left versus right issue. It's not downtown versus suburb issue. It's a Toronto issue. And in 2015 we intend to tackle it."

Christin Carmichael Greb, Ward 16 Eglinton-Lawrence

"I look forward to addressing many challenges in Ward 16, Eglinton-Lawrence, such as the need to work with the community to manage growth and mitigate the impacts of congestion and development.

Residents' concerns are loud and clear — congestion on arterial roads has resulted in commuters cutting through our neighbourhood streets — endangering children on their way to and from school. As a mother of two small children, I share their concerns.

My 'Safe Streets Pledge' is to reduce speed limits in school zones to 30 km/h during school hours. Studies have shown a slight decrease in speed reduces the occurrence of collisions while increasing accident survival rates for pedestrians exponentially. I will collaborate with the community immediately and advocate at city hall for stronger policies that protect our children — our most precious and vulnerable members of society."

John Campbell, Ward 4 Etobicoke Centre

"One of my most pressing priorities is to be supportive of measures that address our city-wide transportation problems. To that end, I will vote to act in favour of Mayor Tory's Smart Tracks plan.

I have also requested and secured a seat as one of seven councillors who sit on the Toronto Transit Commission and I hope to actively participate in helping the TTC improve efficiency, service and the overall quality of experience.

Within the ward, I intend to begin the preliminary work necessary to develop a community centre for our area. Ward 4 has no city-operated facility where people can go to promote healthy living through exercise, indoor sports, swimming and more.

Such a facility would bring outstanding benefits to seniors and youth."

Jim Karygiannis, Ward 39 Scarborough-Agincourt

"Moving transit forward for the residents of Ward 39, Scarborough-Agincourt is a top priority.

The Sheppard subway needs to be extended from the Don Mills Station to the Scarborough Town Centre. I want to see council reaffirm its commitment to the project and take into consideration the concerned voices of the people of the ward who want this subway line extended.

Presently, the TTC is proposing to build a garage for 250 buses, just east of McNicoll Avenue and Kennedy Road. The proposed location is in a high traffic area, beside a seniors' residence and long-term care complex, near a condominium and a high school. Residents do not want the garage built as it would exacerbate traffic congestion. They are concerned about health and environmental issues. I am working with, and will continue to work with, residents to oppose the proposal in its present form."

Jon Burnside, Ward 26 Don Valley West

"Development and traffic are very important issues in Ward 26; community safety is a top priority.

I have committed to initiating traffic and planning committees to discuss these important issues in the ward. Our community has seen regional-draw power retail centres bring traffic volumes to our residential area. As changes we make will impact how traffic circulates throughout the community, it's critical that area residents are involved in the planning process.

I am on record as being in favour of technology-based enforcement to better manage traffic through neighbourhood intersections."

Justin J. Di Ciano, Ward 5 Etobicoke-Lakeshore

"Although the process will take longer than one year, I will work to equalize development charges in Toronto with surrounding municipalities.

Torontonians should no longer be burdened with the cost of growth. The premise of development charges is that 'growth pays for growth,' and yet from 2009 to 2013, Torontonians paid an extra $350 million to receive the same level of service as a result of new developments. If we equalize our development charges with those of Mississauga (currently $40,000 versus $15,000) for each new condominium unit — we can bring $4 billion to Toronto over the next 10 years for meaningful transit and infrastructure investment."

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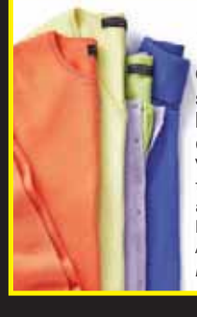

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TORONTO 2015: TRANSIT

Will Toronto's transit system get back on track in 2015?

LUKE SIMCOE
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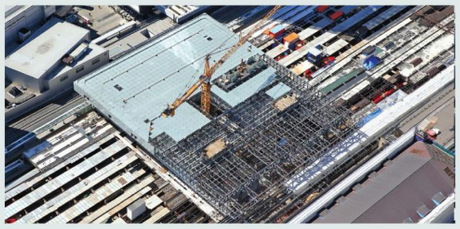

Construction at Union Station in early 2014. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Union Station

Most Torontonians have forgotten what Union Station looks like without scaffolding and plywood tunnels, but the city's transit hub is expected to emerge from its facelift in the summer. The station will include a new concourse to help GO Transit users move through the building.

A Union-Pearson Express train at Pearson Airport. COURTESY OF METROLINX

Union-Pearson Express

Derided by some as a "luxury line," the express rail service promises to carry you from Pearson Airport to Union Station in 25 minutes at a cost of $27.50. The exact launch date hasn't been announced, but Metrolinx says the service will be up and running in the spring.

A Presto card station on a new TTC streetcar. COURTESY OF METROLINX

Presto cards

Although full roll-out of Metrolinx's payment card system isn't expected until 2017, another 11 TTC stations will be Presto-equipped in 2015, bringing the total to 25. The cards are also expected to be usable on four of the city's busiest streetcar routes by the end of the year.

The tunnel-boring machine along the Eglinton Crosstown LRT route. COURTESY OF METROLINX

Eglinton Crosstown LRT

Already underway, the Eglinton Crosstown line, running from Mount Dennis to Kennedy Station, will be a flurry of activity in 2015. Having reached Allen Road, the tunnel-boring machines need to be extracted from the ground to bypass the existing subway line before they can resume their journey east.

One of the new TTC streetcars brought on line in 2014. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

New streetcars

The TTC's new streetcars will be a more common sight around the city as more are added to three routes: Bathurst Street, Harbourfront and Dundas Street. The new cars will be stored and maintained at the TTC's new stockyard at Leslie Barns, which is set to open in the first half of 2015.

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TORONTO 2015: SPORTS

High expectations for Raptors in 2015

We The North. Team will have to prove itself when it faces Western Conference teams

GILBERT NGABO
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In many ways, the Toronto Raptors have already exceeded expectations for the 2014-2015 season.

The best start in franchise history is expected to spill into the new year.

Per ESPN's Hollinger odds, the Raptors have a 100 per cent chance of making the playoffs on a projected 57-25 record, and a 49 per cent shot at finishing the season atop the conference. That isn't too much to expect, considering their recent run of success.

"A lot of people have high expectations of the Raptors because of how last season ended and the run of success they have been on since trading Rudy Gay," said Dave Zarum, Raptors/NBA writer for Sportsnet Magazine.

A mammoth trade a year ago brought Toronto a quartet of players that included Patrick Patterson and Greivis Vasquez. The duo is now a backbone of the Raptors' bench that threatens to be the best in the league, with Lou Williams and James Johnson being the new addition to its depth.

For 2015, the team has a burden to prove that it's worth the buzz, especially against talent-studded Western Conference teams.

"I'm interested to see how they'll fare against top teams like Warriors and Clippers," Zarum said. "That will be the real test."

The Raptors are heading west soon, facing the Los Angeles Clippers on Dec. 27, the Golden State Warriors on Jan. 2, along with the Portland Trail Blazers and Phoenix Suns.

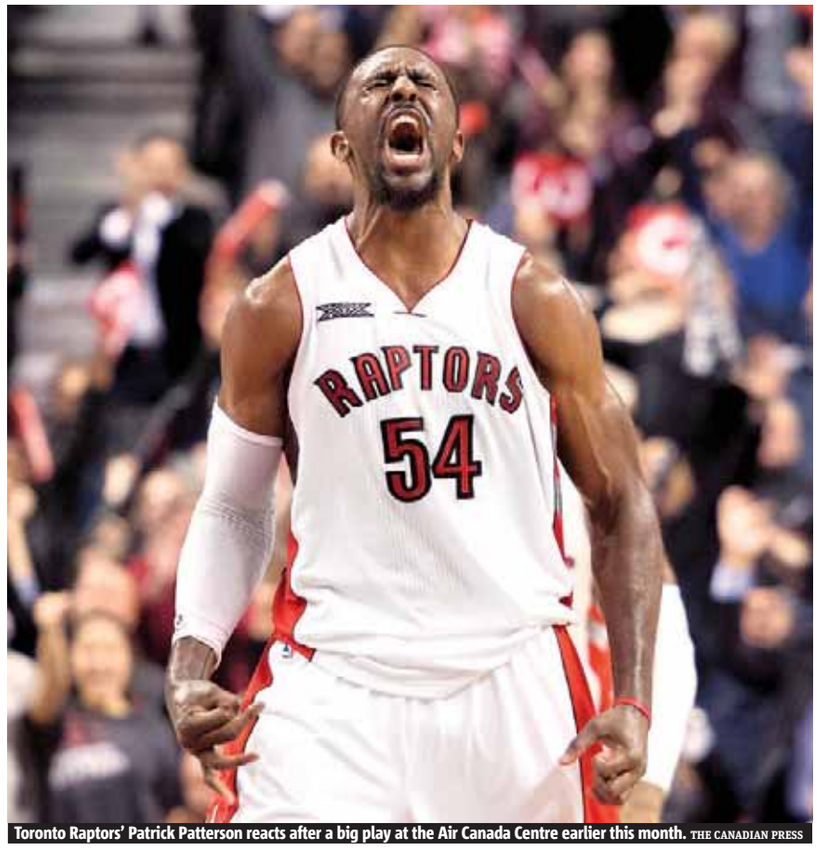
Zarum cautioned it's wishful thinking to project the Raptors as a championship contender.

"Right now, the fans should just enjoy the fact that the Raptors are a very good team," he said.

Quoted

"It's fair to expect them to go past the first round. After that, it gets a little bit trickier."

Sportswriter Dave Zarum
on his prediction for the Raptors in 2015



Toronto Raptors' Patrick Patterson reacts after a big play at the Air Canada Centre earlier this month. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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2014 saw crowdfunding boost start-ups

A total of $1.3 million was raised for high-fidelity wireless speakers, and almost $1.2 million for specialty drones.

In 2014, several tiny Canadian companies went from obscurity to making headlines on tech blogs around the world thanks to successful crowdfunding campaigns.

Once the domain of hobbyists and tinkerers, crowdfunding is increasingly becoming a growth strategy for small companies with big ideas.

"An older paradigm about crowdfunding was four guys in their garage who couldn't find money any other way," said Steve Tam, a marketing manager with Indiegogo Canada.

"Now we're seeing an increasing number of companies who are either already in market or have a very validated product and are using crowdfunding as a part of their marketing campaign, or their fundraising, or their access to international markets."

Mass Fidelity, headquartered just east of Toronto, turned to Indiegogo earlier this year. The company sought about $55,000 to help get its Core wireless speaker system into production.

"We were a small company no one had heard of based in sleepy old Toronto," said co-founder Neil D'Souza.

To Core's astonishment, the modest crowdfunding campaign raised more than 25 times what the company was seeking, eventually surpassing $1.3 million.

The second most successful campaign in Canada this year was for the PlexiDrone, aimed at photographers and videographers. It raised $1.17 million after setting a goal of about $115,000. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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MediJean cannabis plant care technician Misad Shazi sprays water on plants growing at the medical marijuana facility in Richmond, B.C.
DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

New rules on medical pot spark anger

Year in review.
Patients no longer permitted to grow their own supply

Shaun Simpson has had a migraine headache for the past seven years.

His medical problems started with surgery to remove a piece of his skull that was pressing against his brain. The procedure left him with a spinal-fluid leak, which, in turn, fuels a near-constant headache.

For years, Simpson took a dozen or more Tylenol 3 pills a day, but they caused unpleasant side-effects.

About two and a half years ago, he received a prescription for medical marijuana, which he ordered from Health Canada.

"I don't feel like I'm drugged out or stoned from the Tylenol 3; I'm actually more active and social," says Simpson, 34, a photographer in the Maritimes. "It's really changed my life as far as day-to-day routine goes."

Simpson is among tens of thousands of Canadians who have used medical marijuana legally since 2001, and, like many of those patients, he was forced earlier this year to adjust to a massive overhaul of the system.

The federal government implemented new rules prohibiting patients from growing their own pot and instead restricted production and sale to a new collection of licensed commercial operations.

But the system has been beset by complaints of low supply and high prices. Some commercial producers have long waiting lists and are plagued by frequent sellouts, and approvals for new operations have been slow. THE CANADIAN PRESS

How it works

Medical marijuana must be purchased from licensed commercial producers.

- Health Canada says 13,700 patients were registered as of Oct. 31.
- Currently 15 companies are licensed to produce and sell medical pot.

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CANADA 2015: SEXUAL ASSAULT

Will rash of talk translate into action?

Conversation. If we don't make changes, we risk losing any progress we've made this year

ANGELA MULLINS
angela.mullins@metronews.ca

Society is fickle.

It always has been, in a way, but we see it more today than ever before.

It used to take hours for news to spread across the country or around the globe, landing in your living room just in time for breakfast. Now, it spreads faster than a British Columbia wildfire during a drought.

As a result, the conversations we have often change just as fast. Outrage about government scandals blends into chatter about the best new meme blends into more outrage about whatever's captured our short attention spans. We are like kittens working the production line in a glitter factory.

The conversation we had about sexual assault this year broke the modern-day mold.

Sparked largely by now dethroned CBC Radio icon Jian Ghomeshi accused of using power to parlay violence, Canada's dialogue about what's right and just plain wrong in the bedroom, workplace and everywhere else didn't blend into anything else.

It was, for months, at the forefront of intense political debates, casual coffeehouse conversations and, perhaps most importantly these days, social media.

Hashtags like #NoMore and #BeenRapedNeverReported started trending on Twitter as a steady line of women stepped forward to declare they had been raped, felt up or treated like a sex toy.

Could it be that after decades of hushed back-room whispers about body shapes and less-than-consensual one-night stands that we had turned a corner?

Jian Ghomeshi leaves College Park court with his lawyers in November. The case has sparked a national dialogue on sex assault. COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Everyone hoped — and continues to hope — that's the case. Given our past behaviour, however, it's doubtful.

Remember the throngs of Hollywood stars who stood front and centre during the HIV/AIDS movement? How about all those moustaches proudly sprouted for Movember? Or the deaths of Michael Brown and Cpl. Nathan Cirillo?

All were, at some point in the very recent past, issues pushed to the forefront of a communal march toward a better world. But, unfortunately, the fervor has died.

When was the last time you saw someone wearing an AIDS ribbon? Canada raised 45 per cent less for Movember this year than in 2013.

The #BlackLivesMatter hashtag, synonymous with Brown's death at the hands of a Missouri police officer, is still being used, but it's hardly trending. After being gunned down on Parliament Hill, Cirillo is now being remembered as only one of many stories of 2014.

Our conversation about sexual assault risks the same fate unless it moves from talk to action in 2015.

Promises of Queen's Park committees dedicated to the topic need to be fulfilled, promises of more support for victims need to become reality and victims need to continue coming forward with stories that turn enough stomachs to hold our attention spans — over and over again.

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Quebec in 2015

Peladeau vows to father new country

Quebec media mogul Pierre Karl Peladeau's journey to become the father of a country begins in earnest in 2015.

The controlling shareholder of Quebecor Inc. is the acknowledged front-runner in the Parti Quebecois leadership race, which will end in May.

While some polls have suggested Peladeau is already the man Quebecers want as premier, the next provincial election won't be held until September 2018.

So, if Peladeau does replace Pauline Marois as PQ leader, he will have three years to be successful in his seemingly simple but yet daunting plan: to revive a moribund sovereignty movement.

One possible negative in his becoming leader is that Quebecers will be getting a much closer look at a relative political neophyte unaccustomed to the cut and thrust of public life.

Peladeau, whose Quebecor is one of the main players in the province's cable, Internet, cellphone and media markets, says his primary goal in entering politics is to make Canada's second most populous province a country.

Asked on Nov. 27, when he officially declared his leadership campaign, what his main theme would be, he replied without hesitation: "Sovereignty."

"I think it's clear that I've committed to achieving Quebec sovereignty. It is my objective, my only objective."

Although Quebecers' support for independence continues to stubbornly stick around 35 per cent, the next few years present Peladeau an opportunity to make an economic case for the province to go on its own.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mentions of Canada drop in U.S. Congress

Year in review. Republicans praise our business climate, low corporate taxes

An unusual phenomenon has transpired in the United States Congress when it comes to mentions of Canada.

In fact, it's more like two phenomena.

The first is that references to Canada have gone down over the years — way down.

The Congressional Record suggests a drop by half since the free-trade debates of the early 1990s as distant wars, trade deals and geopolitical turmoil supplanted the focus once lavished upon the next-door neighbour, with 1,548 mentions in the 102nd Congress of 1991-93 gradually melting into barely 700 mentions in the soon-to-expire 113th Congress.

The second point of interest is the partisan shift: It used to be mostly Democrats talking about the neighbour, sometimes favourably and sometimes negatively. Now it's mostly Republicans, according to the Capitol Words website.

"There's been a shift in perception," said Christopher Sands, a Canada-watcher at the Hudson Institute in Washington. "That is the perception of Canada being a more conservative place."

That switch occurred around 2006 — the year Canada elected a Conservative government. But Sands said the political-image makeover has been more gradual, since Canada balanced its books in the 1990s, lowered its corporate taxes, and became a huge oil exporter. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Changes

- Canada is perceived as being more conservative since Stephen Harper was elected in 2006.
- We are now known for our big oil, small corporate taxes and hawkish rhetoric against Russian President Vladimir Putin and ISIL.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper, right, and U.S. President Barack Obama make their way to a G20 plenary session in Brisbane, Australia, in November. MANDEL NGAN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES FILE

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CANADA 2015: PIPELINES

Pipelines' futures far from certain

'Breakdown of fundamental trust.'
Pipeline builders must go beyond obtaining the necessary permits

Once considered a rather ho-hum line of business, pipelines dominated much of the public discourse in 2014. In recent years, the debate has spread beyond the direct environmental impacts of putting steel in the ground into broader issues around anything from global climate change to First Nations rights.

Although proposed projects from Alberta's oilsands to the east, west and U.S. Gulf Coasts made some progress over the past year, their prospects remain far from certain.

A near-halving in crude prices over the past six months has led to widespread belt-tightening in the oilpatch, calling into question future demand for new transport infrastructure. But that's just one of the litany of challenges for pipeline builders seeking "social licence" to build their projects — measures that go beyond simply obtaining the necessary government permits.

Enbridge, for example, has had a federal permit to build its multibillion-dollar Northern Gateway pipeline to the West Coast in hand since the summer, subject to 209 conditions.

But shovels are not hitting the ground soon for the 525,000-barrel-per-day conduit that would connect oilsands crude to the West Coast port of Kitimat, B.C., and from there to energy-hungry Asian markets.

Rather, Enbridge has been "re-engaging" with B.C. First Nations along the route, many of which have been outspoken opponents of the project, concerned a potential spill would destroy the water on land on which they rely.

Pipelines have also been at the centre of a larger public debate about fighting climate change. And industry and government efforts to build public support for pipelines hasn't been going well, said Michael Cleland, Nexen executive in residence at the Canada West Foundation.

A former assistant deputy minister in the federal Natural Resources department, Cleland said there's a "breakdown of fundamental trust of the various institutions that are in play here."

"People feel that they can't get in the door, that they can't get their voices heard on all sorts of things, including what are you doing about greenhouse gas management and what are you doing about long-term regional land-use planning and so on," he said.

Industry seems to now understand how important it is to engage at the community level early on, said Cleland.

"The locally affected communities are the ones where you're most likely to find people who care about it, but are also in a position to see both the benefits and the potential risks," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"It seems no matter where you look, what you've got is a lot of discord and a lot of potential for that to grow."

Michael Cleland, Nexen executive in residence at the Canada West Foundation

Protester Marija Brzev locked herself to a cement block with a bike lock on Nov. 20, 2014, as at least a dozen RCMP officers entered an anti-pipeline encampment in B.C. and started making arrests. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

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OR

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+

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CANADA'S BEST-SELLING SUV¥

SE MODEL SHOWN

- AdvanceTrac® with Roll Stability, Traction and Curve Control™
- Up to 1,920 Litres of Cargo Capacity
- Active Grille Shutters
- Personal Safety System

OWN FOR ONLY **$21,499†** OFFER INCLUDES **$4,250 YEAR-END CASH≠**

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$299 per month is equivalent to $138 Bi-Weekly $69 Weekly

XLT MODEL WITH OPTIONAL FEATURES SHOWN

- 360HP 5.0L V8 Engine w/ Electronic 6-Speed Automatic Transmission with Tow/Haul Mode
- SiriusXM Satellite Radio w/ 6-Month Prepaid Subscription
- SYNC® Voice-Activated Communications and Entertainment System with 911 Assist®∞

LEASE FOR ONLY **$299@0%‡** APR OR **0%*** APR PURCHASE FINANCING FOR UP TO 72 MONTHS

PER MONTH FOR **24 MONTHS** WITH $2,575 DOWN GET OFFERS INCLUDE $5,500 YEAR END-CASH^ + $3,700 FORD LEASE CASH□ FREIGHT AND AIR TAX

2014 FOCUS SE

WORLD'S BEST-SELLING CAR NAMEPLATE£

ST MODEL SHOWN

- 160HP 2.0L 4-Cyl Ti-VCT Engine
- Torque Vectoring Control
- MyKey Technology
- SYNC® Voice-Activated Communications and Entertainment System with 911 Assist®∞
- Air Conditioning

PURCHASE FINANCING FOR **$108@0.99%**** APR OR WELL EQUIPPED SE FOR ONLY **$18,889†** OFFERS INCLUDE **$750 YEAR-END CASH≠**

BI-WEEKLY FOR 84 MONTHS WITH $0 DOWN

FREIGHT AND AIR TAX.

2015 FUSION S

2014 IIHS TOP SAFETY PICK+ APPLIES TO OPTIONAL FRONT CRASH PREVENTION MODELS

TITANIUM MODEL SHOWN

- SYNC® Voice-Activated Communications and Entertainment System with 911 Assist®∞
- 6-Speed SelectShift® Transmission with Sport Mode
- Rearview Camera
- 16" Aluminum Wheel

PURCHASE FINANCING FOR **$128@0.99%**** APR OR OWN FOR ONLY **$22,999†** OFFERS INCLUDE **$500 YEAR-END CASH≠**

BI-WEEKLY FOR 84 MONTHS WITH $0 DOWN

FREIGHT AND AIR TAX.

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Retail offers not combinable with any GPA/GPC or Daily Rental incentives, the Commercial Upfit Program or the Commercial Fleet Incentive Program (CFIP). *Until January 2, 2015, receive 0% APR purchase financing on new 2015 Escape models for up to 36 months. 2014 Escape models for up to 60 months, and 2014 Focus, C-MAX, F-150 (excluding Regular Cab XL 4x2 Value Leader and Raptor) and 2015 Fiesta and Fusion models for up to 72 months to qualified retail customers, on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest interest rate. Example: $25,000 purchase financed at 0% APR for 36/60/72 months, monthly payment is $694.44/$416.66/$347.22, cost of borrowing is $0 or APR of 0% and total to be repaid is $25,000. Down payment or purchase financing offers may be required based on approved credit from Ford Credit. ^Until January 2, 2015, receive (0.99%/0.99%/0.99%/2.99%) APR purchase financing on new (2015/2014/2014) Ford (Fusion S/Fusion Titanium/Focus SE Sedan (M)/Focus ST) models for up to (84/84/84/84) months, to qualified retail customers, on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest interest rate. Example: $20,000 purchase financed at (0.99%/0.99%/0.99%/2.99%) APR for (84/84/84/84) months, monthly payment is ($250.00/$250.00/$250.00/$267.86), cost of borrowing is ($1,000.00/$1,000.00/$1,000.00/$2,500.00) and total to be repaid is ($21,000.00/$21,000.00/$21,000.00/$22,500.00). Down payment may be required based on approved credit from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest interest rate. Offers include freight, air tax and PPSA but exclude administration and registration fees of up to $799, fuel fill charge of up to $120 and all applicable taxes. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. Some conditions and mileage restrictions apply. Excess kilometrage charges are 12¢ per km for Fiesta, Focus, C-MAX, Fusion and Escape; 16¢ per km for E-Series, Mustang, Taurus, Taurus X, Edge, Flex, Explorer, F-Series, MKS, MKZ, MKT and Transit Connect; 20¢ per km for Expedition and Navigator, plus applicable taxes. Excess kilometrage charges subject to change (except in Quebec), see your local dealer for details. ‡Visit Ford Lease Cash only available when vehicle is leased with Ford Credit. Lease for 24 months with $2,575 down payment or equivalent trade-in and $0 security deposit. Total lease obligation is $7,176 (after Year-End Cash of ($500/$500/$0/$0/$0/$750/$750) deducted, Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price after Year-End Cash has been deducted. Offers include freight, air tax, and PPSA but exclude administration and registration fees of up to $799, fuel fill charge of up to $120 and all applicable taxes. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. ^Purchase a new (2015/2014/2014) Ford (Fusion S/Fusion Titanium/Escape S/Escape SE/Focus SE (M)/Focus ST) for ($22,999/$34,499/$21,499/$27,749/$18,889/$30,899) (after Year-End Cash of ($500/$500/$0/$0/$0/$750/$750) deducted, Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price after Year-End Cash has been deducted. Offers include freight, air tax, and PPSA but exclude administration and registration fees of up to $799, fuel fill charge of up to $120 and all applicable taxes. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. ∞Requires AT&T, Rogers or Telus data plan (sold separately). Connectivity and features may vary by device and carrier. Not all features are available while driving. Ford recommends that drivers use caution when using mobile phones, even with voice commands. Only use mobile phones and other devices, even with voice commands, not essential to driving when it is safe to do so and in compliance with applicable laws. SYNC is optional on most new Ford vehicles. ¹Until January 2, 2015, receive $300/$750/$1,000/$2,000/$2,500/$3,500/$4,000/$4,250/$4,500/$4,750/$5,000/$5,500/$6,000/$6,250/$6,500/$7,000/$7,250/$7,500/$8,500/$16,500 in Year-End Clearout Cash (Delivery Allowances) with the purchase or lease of a new 2015 Fusion/2014 Focus (excluding S Manual) and 2015 Taurus (excluding SE), Expedition, Transit Connect, E-Series Cutaway, Transit/2014 F-150 Regular Cab XL 4x2 (Value Leader) and 2015 F-350 to F-550 Chassis Cab/2014 Focus S Manual, Edge and 2015 Fiesta S/2015 F-150 Regular Cab (excluding XL 4x2)/2014 Fiesta, F-350 to F-550 Chassis Cab/2014 Mustang V6 Coupe, Taurus SE, Escape, Explorer/2015 F-150 SuperCab and SuperCrew/2014 Fusion/2014 Transit Connect (excluding electric)/2014 E-Series, F-150 Regular Cab (excluding XL 4x2, F-150 SuperCrew 4x2 and 4x4 Flex, F-150 SuperCrew 4x2 and 4x4 5.0L / 2014 Taurus (excluding SE)/2014 Mustang V6 Premium, F-150 SuperCab/ 2015 F-250 to F-450 (excluding Chassis Cabs) Gas engine and 2015 F-250 to F-450 (excluding Chassis Cabs) Diesel engine/ 2014 F-250 to F-450 (excluding Chassis Cabs) Diesel Engine – all stripped chassis, cutaway/cab), F-150 Raptor, Medium Truck, and Mustang GT500 models excluded. Year-End Cash is not combinable with CPA, GPC, CPP, Daily Rental Allowance and HAVC/DVF Plan programs. Delivery allowances are not combinable with any fleet consumer incentives. ≠Based on 2007 / 2013 and YTD June 2014 R.L. Polk vehicle registrations data for Canada in the Large Premium Utility, Large Traditional Utility, Large Light Duty Pickup and Medium Duty Pickup segments. Excludes vehicles with GVWR greater than 4,536 kg (10,000 lbs). ◊Based on 1964 to 2013 and R.L. Polk vehicle registrations data for Canada. Excludes vehicles with GVWR greater than 4,536 kg (10,000 lbs). ¥Based on 2013 and R.L. Polk vehicle registrations data for Canada in the Small Utility segment. Excludes vehicles with GVWR greater than 4,536 kg (10,000 lbs). ©Offer valid from December 2, 2014 to January 2, 2015. The "Other Ford Models" listed are Fiesta (excluding S), Focus (excluding S), Fusion (excluding S), C-MAX, Escape, Edge, Flex, Explorer, Taurus, Taurus X, Expedition, Transit Connect, E-Series, F-150 (excluding Chassis Cabs), and F-350 to F-550 Chassis Cab models – all stripped chassis, cutaway body, and Medium Truck models excluded (each an "Eligible Model") with the purchase, lease, or factory order (during the Program Period) of an Eligible Model. Limit one (1) incentive redemption per Eligible Model sale. Offer is not rancheckable. ©2014 Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited. All rights reserved.

WHO WE SAID GOODBYE TO IN 2014

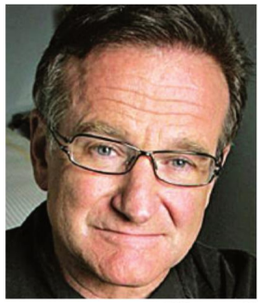
A list of some of the newsmakers who passed away this year.

Farley Mowat, 92

Master storyteller and tireless defender of nature and wildlife. He penned some 40 books, including Never Cry Wolf and The Boat Who Wouldn't Float. May 7.

Robin Williams, 63

Academy Award winner and comic supernova whose explosions of pop culture riffs and impressions dazzled audiences for decades. Aug. 11.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ariel Sharon, 85

Israeli general and prime minister who was both admired and hated for his battlefield exploits and ambitions to reshape the Middle East. Jan. 11.

Mavis Gallant, 91

Montreal-born writer who carved out an international reputation as a master short-story author while living in Paris for decades. Feb. 18.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Maya Angelou, 86

Author and poet who rose from poverty, segregation and violence to become a force on stage, screen and the printed page. May 28.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mickey Rooney, 93

Pint-size actor and all-around talent whose 80-year career spanned silent comedies, Shakespeare, Judy Garland musicals, Andy Hardy stardom, television and the Broadway theatre. April 6.

Philip Seymour Hoffman, 46

He won a best actor Oscar in 2006 for his portrayal of writer Truman Capote in Capote and created a gallery of other vivid characters, many of them slovenly and comic figures. Feb. 2.

GETTY IMAGES

Knowlton Nash, 86

Veteran CBC broadcaster best known as anchor of late evening news program The National from 1978 until his retirement in 1988. May 24.

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For the latest information, visit us at chevrolet.ca, drop by your local Chevrolet Dealer or call us at 1-800-GM-DRIVE. ▼Based on a 48 month lease for 2015 Chevrolet Equinox LS AWD 1LS. Annual kilometre limit of 20,000 km, $0.16 per excess kilometre. OAC by GM Financial. Monthly/bi-weekly payments may vary depending on down payment/trade. A down payment or trade of $0 and/or $0 security deposit is required. Total obligation is $15,833. Option to purchase at lease end is $13,053. Excess wear and tear and km charges not included. Other lease options available. ▼/***Freight & PDI ($1,650), registration, air and tire levies and OMVIC fees included. Insurance, licence, PPSA, dealer fees and applicable taxes not included. Offers apply as indicated to 2015 new or demonstrator models of the vehicle equipped as described. Offers apply to qualified retail customers in the Ontario Chevrolet Dealer Marketing Association area only (including Outaouais). Dealers are free to set individual prices. Quantities limited; dealer order or trade may be required. Limited time offers which may not be combined with other offers. GMCL may modify, extend or terminate offers, in whole or in part, at any time without notice. Conditions and limitations apply. See dealer for details. ΔEPA estimated. ♦Comparison based on 2013 Polk segmentation: Compact SUV and latest competitive data available and based on the maximum legroom available. Excludes other GM brands. ††2015 Equinox 1LZ. MSRP with freight, PDI & levies: $39,164. Dealers are free to set individual prices. **The 2-Year Scheduled Lube-Oil-Filter Maintenance Program provides eligible customers in Canada, who have purchased, leased or financed a new eligible 2014MY Chevrolet, Buick or GMC vehicle (excluding Spark EV), with an ACDelco oil and filter change, in accordance with the oil life monitoring system and the Owner's Manual, for 2 years or 40,000 km, whichever occurs first, with a limit of four (4) Lube-Oil-Filter services in total, performed at participating GM Dealers. Fluid top-offs, inspections, tire rotations, wheel alignments and balancing, etc. are not covered. This offer may not be redeemed for cash and may not be combined with certain other consumer incentives available on GM vehicles. General Motors of Canada Limited reserves the right to amend or terminate this offer, in whole or in part, at any time without prior notice. Additional conditions and limitations apply. See dealer for details. ▲Whichever comes first. See dealer for limited warranty details. 1Offer applies to eligible current owners or lessees of any model year 1999 or newer car that has been registered and insured in Canada in the customer's name for the previous consecutive six (6) months. Credit valid towards the retail purchase or lease of one eligible 2013, 2014, 2015 model year Chevrolet/Buick/GMC/Cadillac car, SUV, crossover and pickup models delivered in Canada between December 2, 2014 – January 2, 2015, (except 2015MY Cadillac Escalade). Credit is a manufacturer to consumer incentive (tax inclusive) and credit value depends on model purchased: $750 credit available on all eligible Chevrolet, Buick and GMC vehicles; $1,000 credit available on all Cadillac vehicles (except 2015MY Cadillac Escalade). Offer is transferable to a family member living within the same household (proof of address required). As part of the transaction, dealer may request documentation and contact General Motors of Canada Limited (GMCL) to verify eligibility. This offer may not be redeemed for cash and may not be combined with certain other consumer incentives. Certain limitations or conditions apply. Void where prohibited. See your GMCL dealer for details. GMCL reserves the right to amend or terminate offers for any reason, in whole or in part, at any time without prior notice. 2Offer applies to eligible current owners or lessees of any model year 1999 or newer pickup truck that has been registered and insured in Canada in the customer's name for the previous consecutive six (6) months. Credit is a manufacturer to consumer incentive (tax inclusive): $1,000 credit available towards the retail purchase, cash purchase or lease of one eligible 2013, 2014 or 2015 model year Chevrolet or GMC light or heavy duty pickup (except Colorado/Canyon); delivered in Canada between December 2, 2014 – January 2, 2015. Offer is transferable to a family member living within the same household (proof of address required). As part of the transaction, dealer may request documentation and contact General Motors of Canada Limited (GMCL) to verify eligibility. This offer may not be redeemed for cash and may not be combined with certain other consumer incentives. Certain limitations or conditions apply. Void where prohibited. See your GMCL dealer for details. GMCL reserves the right to amend or terminate offers for any reason, in whole or in part, at any time without prior notice. 3Offer applies to eligible current owners or lessees of any Pontiac/Saturn/SAAB/Hummer/Oldsmobile model year 1999 or newer car or Chevrolet Cobalt or HHR that has been registered and insured in Canada in the customer's name for the previous consecutive six (6) months. Credit valid towards the retail purchase or lease of one eligible 2013, 2014, 2015 model year Chevrolet/Buick/GMC/Cadillac car, SUV, crossover and pickup models delivered in Canada between December 2, 2014 – January 2, 2015, (except 2015MY Cadillac Escalade). Credit is a manufacturer to consumer incentive (tax inclusive) and credit value depends on model purchased: $1,500 credit available on all eligible Chevrolet, Buick and GMC vehicles; $2,000 credit available on all Cadillac vehicles (except 2015MY Cadillac Escalade). Offer is transferable to a family member living within the same household (proof of address required). As part of the transaction, dealer may request documentation and contact General Motors of Canada Limited (GMCL) to verify eligibility. This offer may not be redeemed for cash and may not be combined with certain other consumer incentives. Certain limitations or conditions apply. Void where prohibited. See your GMCL dealer for details. GMCL reserves the right to amend or terminate offers for any reason, in whole or in part, at any time without prior notice. 4Offer valid to eligible retail lessees in Canada who have obtained credit approval by and entered into a lease agreement with GM Financial, and who accept delivery from December 2, 2014 through January 2nd, 2015 of any new or demonstrator 2015 model year Chevrolet, City Express excluded at outset of program; will be eligible once residuals become available. General Motors of Canada will pay one month's lease payment or two bi-weekly lease payments as defined on the lease agreement (inclusive of taxes). After the first month, lessee will be required to make all remaining scheduled payments over the remaining term of the lease agreement. PPSA/RDPRM is not due. Consumer may be required to pay Dealer Fees. Insurance, licence, and applicable taxes not included. Additional conditions and limitations apply. GM reserves the right to modify or terminate this offer at any time without prior notice. See dealer for details. 5$500 Boxing Week Bonus is a manufacturer-to-consumer credit (tax inclusive) available on the retail purchase or lease of 2014 or 2015 model year Chevrolet Sonic, Cruze, Trax, Equinox, Traverse, Silverado Light Duty (1500) Double Cab, Silverado HD (gas engine only), 2014 or 2015 model year Buick Verano, Encore, Enclave, 2014 or 2015 model year GMC Terrain, Acadia, Sierra Light Duty (1500) Double Cab, Sierra HD (gas engine only) and 2014 or 2015 model year Cadillac ATS Sedan and SRX delivered in Canada between December 15, 2014 and January 2, 2015. For the province of Quebec the offer ends on December 31, 2014.

ClearlyContacts.ca

boxing week specials

Joan Rivers, 81

Raucous, acid-tongued comedian who crashed the male-dominated realm of late-night talk shows and turned Hollywood red carpets into danger zones for badly dressed celebrities. Sept. 4.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alistair MacLeod, 77

Prairie-born author who won the 2001 IMPAC Dublin Literary Award with his only novel, No Great Mischief. April 20.

Jim Flaherty, 64

The former Canadian finance minister was a fixture on the world financial stage who stepped down in March to return to the private sector. He was credited with helping get Canada back on track to a balanced budget following the 2008 financial crisis. April 10.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Shirley Temple, 85

Dimpled, curly-haired child star who sang, danced, sobbed and grinned her way into the hearts of Depression-era moviegoers. Feb. 10.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rubin (Hurricane) Carter, 76

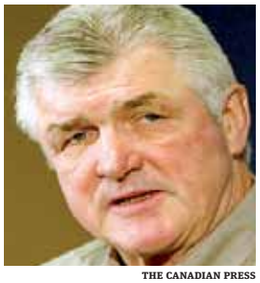
Boxer whose wrongful murder conviction became an international symbol of racial injustice. April 20.

Ben Bradlee, 93

Hard-charging editor who guided The Washington Post through its Pulitzer Prize-winning coverage of the Watergate scandal and invigorated its newsroom for more than two decades. Oct. 21.

Jean-Claude Duvalier, 63

He presided over what was widely acknowledged as a corrupt, brutal regime as the self-proclaimed "president for life" of Haiti until an uprising sent him into a 25-year exile. Oct. 4.



THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pat Quinn, 71

Former NHL player, longtime coach and executive. He coached for the Philadelphia Flyers, Los Angeles Kings, Vancouver Canucks, Toronto Maple Leafs, and Edmonton Oilers, reaching the Stanley Cup Finals twice. Nov. 23.

Oscar de la Renta, 82

Worldly gentleman designer who shaped the wardrobe of socialites, first ladies and Hollywood stars for more than four decades. Oct. 20.

L'Wren Scott, 49

She left her small-town Utah home as a teenager to become a model in Paris, then a top Hollywood stylist and finally a high-end fashion designer known as the longtime girlfriend of Mick Jagger. March 17.

BOXING DAY

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BOXING DAY DEALS December 26th, 27th (9-6) 28th (12-4)

2014 SORENTO LX AWD 7 PASSENGER

DEMO PRICE $156.62 +HST $0 down@5.24% OAC WEEKLY FOR 96 MONTHS PRICE $26,500+HST STK: 14240 COST OF BORROWING: $6800.85 **Awd, 7 Passenger, Bluetooth, Power Driver Seat, Push Start**

2014 SEDONA LX CONV.

DEMO PRICE $139.54 +HST $0 down@5.24% OAC WEEKLY FOR 96 MONTHS PRICE $23,600+HST STK: 14337 COST OF BORROWING: $6059.10 **Rear Stow And Go, 7 Passenger, Bluetooth, Keyless Entry**

2014 OPTIMA SX TURBO

DEMO PRICE $158.97 +HST $0 down@5.24% OAC WEEKLY FOR 96 MONTHS PRICE $26,900+HST STK: 14347 COST OF BORROWING: $6903.17 **Turbo 2.0L, 297 Hp, Navigation, Panoramic Roof**

2014 RIO EX SUNROOF

DEMO PRICE $97.69 +HST $0 down@5.24% OAC WEEKLY FOR 96 MONTHS PRICE $16,495+HST STK: 14342 COST OF BORROWING: $4241.80 **Sunroof, Back Up Camera, Alloy Wheels, Bluetooth**

BOXING DAY DEMO BLOWOUT SALE

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2014 SPORTAGE EX

DEMO PRICE $138.36 +HST $0 down@5.24% OAC WEEKLY FOR 96 MONTHS PRICE $23,400+HST STK: 14345 COST OF BORROWING: $6007.95 **Push Button Start, Back Up Camera, Led Lights, 17" Alloys**

2014 RONDO EX LEATHER

DEMO PRICE $129.52 +HST $0 down@5.24% OAC WEEKLY FOR 96 MONTHS PRICE $21,900+HST STK: 14346 COST OF BORROWING: $5624.28 **Leather, Heated Seats, Bluetooth, Back Up Camera**

2014 FORTE EX

DEMO PRICE $105.37 +HST $0 down@5.24% OAC WEEKLY FOR 96 MONTHS PRICE $17,800+HST STK: 14343 COST OF BORROWING: $4575.59 **Alloy Wheels, Uvo System, Back Up Camera, Bluetooth**

2014 OPTIMA LX

DEMO PRICE $121.87 +HST $0 down@5.24% OAC WEEKLY FOR 96 MONTHS PRICE $20,600+HST STK: 14339 COST OF BORROWING: $5291.77 **Power Driver Seat, Back Up Camera, Bluetooth, Alloy Wheels**

2014 FORTE KOUP SX TURBO

DEMO PRICE $128.34 +HST $0 down@5.24% OAC WEEKLY FOR 96 MONTHS PRICE $21,700+HST STK: FO726E COST OF BORROWING: $5573.12 **Turbo, Bluetooth, Back Up Camera, Power Group, 18" Alloys**

2014 SPORTAGE SX TURBO

DEMO PRICE $171.32 +HST $0 down@5.24% OAC WEEKLY FOR 96 MONTHS PRICE $28,995+HST STK: 14182 COST OF BORROWING: $7439.02 **Turbo 2.0 L, 260 Hp, Xenon Headlights, Rear Heated Seats**

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WORLD 2015: STORIES TO WATCH

Hackers calling themselves "Guardians of Peace" wreaked havoc on Sony Pictures in one of the most eye-opening of many recent instances of Internet-based activism. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

What a tangled web we've woven

E-politics. The Internet has come into its own as a force for social change, both good and bad, and in this new world we'll all need to be brave

MATT LAFORGE
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If 2013 was the year when, in light of the Edward Snowden disclosures, we finally reckoned with the true power of the Internet as wielded by governments and corporations, then 2014 was the year when, in light of the Woody Allen, Jian Ghomeshi and Bill Cosby affairs, GamerGate, and the anti-police-brutality protests — we reckoned with the true power of the Internet as wielded by civil society. (And then at year's end, of course, along came government's reply, in the form of the Sony hacks, which the U.S. eventually confirmed were the work of North Korea.)

The lessons we've learned have been profound, and the anxiety and uncertainty that remain will, I believe, lead to major social changes in 2015 and beyond. I don't know what they'll be but I guarantee they're coming.

Above all, what we'll continue to come to grips with in the coming years is that the Internet can do more than merely supplement the processes of the brick-and-mortar world; it can supersede and even outright replace those processes.

A government can spy on you planting a bug.

A police officer thought to have committed an act of brutality can be identified, whether mistakenly or accurately, without his department releasing his name.

A man can be accused of being a sexual criminal, and be condemned by wide consensus — attaining a measure of social justice for victims and families — without the authorities trying, convicting or even arresting him.

A major entertainment conglomerate can have its private documents made public and can be forced, under threat of violence, to bury a $42-million movie without anyone breaking into the company's offices or so much as speaking to an employee.

On some level, we've known for a while now that such things were possible. But there's a difference between knowing something could happen and seeing it happen.

When the primacy of certain institutions — the criminal-justice system, for one — is no longer taken for granted, value systems are reopened for debate. It's in periods of such flux that great progress stands to be made.

The wide-open questions that face us heading into 2015: Who will progress and at whose cost?

Quoted

When the primacy of certain institutions is no longer taken for granted, value systems are reopened for debate. It's in periods of such flux that great progress stands to be made.

Cubans find hope in deal with U.S.

The restoration of diplomatic ties between Cuba and the United States unleashed expectations of even more momentous changes on an island that often seems frozen in a past of classic cars and crumbling Art Deco buildings.

Following the surprise announcement, many Cubans expressed hope that it will mean greater access to jobs and the creature comforts taken for granted elsewhere, and lift a struggling socialist economy where staples like meat, cooking oil and toilet paper are often hard to come by.

That yearning, however, was tempered with anxiety. Some fear a cultural onslaught, or that crime and drugs, both rare in Cuba, will become common along with visitors from the U.S. There is also concern that the country will become just another Caribbean destination.

That mix of optimism and concern was a common refrain among Cubans trying to digest the implications of such a seismic shift between the two Cold War rivals after more than half a century of bad blood. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Climate change: Earth's elephant in the room

It's not going anywhere. Scientists' warnings have never been more urgent and humanity's response has never been less adequate

MATT LAFORGE
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For most of 2014, news stories reporting climate scientists' findings about humanity's ongoing punishment of Earth's atmosphere, as well as their increasingly dire predictions about the severity of the damage on weather patterns, biodiversity and food supply that such punishment stands to inflict, appeared with the usual frequency (regular but not overwhelming).

These stories also appeared in the usual media venues, and the comments from the carbon-counting eggheads bore the usual flavour of urgency (assertive but polite, with a soupçon of held-out hope). But at a certain point in the year's latter months the conversation heated up.

First, in September, came the annual report from the Global Carbon Project. Predictably depressing results: emissions reached record levels in 2013, having increased by 2.3 per cent in 2013. Canada and the U.S. remain two of the world's worst per-capita emitters. (The money quote, courtesy of one of the eggheads, was strikingly unequivocal: "There is no more time. It needs to be all hands on deck now.")

Then, in the year's final weeks, another summit, this one in Lima, which itself was only a prelude to yet another summit next year in Paris, ended with the 190 participating countries agreeing to a set of emission-reduction pledges that nearly everyone characterized as craven and watered down.

A few days after that, U.S. scientists released a report showing that the amount of vital sun-reflecting snow and ice in the Arctic had reached record lows.

Summation: Things probably got worse than ever in 2014.

Of course, the problem with saying that any one year's climate-change news is the worst yet is that it opens one up to charges of recency bias: It only feels like things got worse than ever in 2014 because 2014 is the year we happened to have just finished living, and human memories are short.

The problem with recency-bias charge, however, is that, because the causes of climate-change are cumulative, every successive year that doesn't produce a concerted international counterattack is in fact and by definition the worst year in the history of the problem.

This issue will not go away in 2015. Right up to the moment when we decide to do what's required to make it better, it will only get worse.

Some of the culprits

The top carbon-dioxide-emitting countries, by worldwide rank, as of 2011, according to the U.S.'s Energy Information Agency.

- **1. China:**
  Total emissions (in millions of tonnes): 8,715.31
  Per capita emissions (in tonnes): 6.52
- **2. United States:**
  Total emissions: 5,490.63
  Per capita emissions:17.62
- **3. Russia:**
  Total emissions: 1,788.14
  Per capita emissions: 12.55
- **4. India:**
  Total emissions: 1,725.76
  Per capita emissions: 1.45
- **9. Canada:**
  Total emissions: 552.56
  Per capita emissions: 16.24

Climate change gets more serious with every year that passes without serious action on the part of the world's worst polluters. And there's no reason to believe 2015 will be any different. Just ask the polar bears. KATHY CRANE/NOAA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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VOICES

TORONTO 2015: NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

A MODEST PROPOSAL

Let's fix the broken fountain on University Avenue and move up from there

MATT ELLIOTT
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As Toronto gets ready to enter a new year with a new mayor, I could come up with all sorts of ambitious resolutions for our city. So many issues are crying out for attention — transit, housing, even the way we vote.

But the thing about ambitious New Year's resolutions is that they inevitably tend to, um, not come true.

So let's keep things simple. This year, I'll make only a small request to the people who govern our city: Fix the fountain.

The fountain in question is on University Avenue, just north of Queen Street. It's supposed to be a statement piece, serving as a gateway to our city. But aside from a few exciting weeks where the water flowed, it's been busted since 2009.

Last we heard, staff at city hall were pretty sure the fountain might finally be fixed and ready to go for the time the city turns the water back on in the spring.

But I'm skeptical. Cynical, even.

And I have reason to be, both because we've heard that before and because the perpetually broken fountain on University Avenue is emblematic of one of the most frustrating things about Toronto. Too often this city seems ready to accept broken and boring things — to embrace mediocrity.

We see it all over. We see it in parks that open to fanfare and photo ops but then fall victim to uncut grass and dead plants because city council won't increase the landscaping budget.

The decorative fountain at the centre of University Avenue, north of Queen Street, is seen in September. The fountain was shut down in 2009 due to water seeping into the Osgoode subway station, and it still isn't working.

JACK LAKEY/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

We see it in the city's not-so-inspiring new architecture. The planned St. Lawrence Market North building is a good example: It went from a bold and ambitious design to only a pretty good design after it became clear there wasn't political support for the increased cost.

And we see it on transit, where the TTC's status as the least-subsidized transit agency in North America translates into streetcars and buses that are packed to the gills — but, hey, you saved a few bucks on your property tax bill this year.

Making sure the water flows again on University Avenue won't solve these problems, but a permanent fix would at least send a message that the city won't put up with mediocrity — that we're not going to let the first thing some visitors see be a fenced-up waterless fountain on our grand avenue.

It's time Toronto started recognizing that we have a city worth investing in, and that some things have a value greater than just their budgetary costs. It's OK to demand better. I hope 2015 is the year all of us, and our elected representatives, start to do just that.

Sounds pretty ambitious, I know. So let's go back to the fountain. Fix that first — it'll be a pretty good start.

What about standards?

Too often this city seems ready to accept broken and boring things — to embrace mediocrity.

New Year's resolutions for newsmakers *as imagined by Rebecca Kohler*

REBECCA KOHLER
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People who participated in the Ice Bucket Challenge: This year, we resolve to donate to charity without being tagged by a friend on Facebook. And this year, we will actually donate money, not just a video of ourselves in that cute bikini we bought in Vegas.

Don't tell anyone, but we didn't even put ice in the water. In fact we warmed it up and put lavender bath salts in it. We pretended it was cold, but it was actually really soothing.

Jian Ghomeshi: This year, I resolve to start a really cool radio show about arts and culture. My only guest will be my mom and we'll broadcast from my childhood bedroom. If need be, I will relocate my studio to the Millhaven Institution.

Apple: Last year we released the iPhone 6, but that's old news — let's face it, it was old news five minutes after you bought it. (Sucker.)

This year, we resolve to launch the iPhone 10 — we'll release the 7, 8 and 9 quickly throughout the year but their batteries will only last for two months and we'll make sure their screens smash faster than Humpty Dumpty's skull.

The iPhone 10 will be nicknamed the iPhone Large and will be the size of an iPad Mini but so thin you won't be able to see it. It will come with an app that eats money and can be purchased on layaway with your first-born child as down payment.

Ebola: In 2015, I resolve to do more travelling. I hear Iceland is gorgeous!

Renée Zellweger: In 2015, I resolve to not change my face. I won't get Botox, or chemical peels (maybe one) and I will love myself for who I am.

It's hard because the film industry makes me feel bad about myself, so I changed my face, but then they all made fun of me so it's like, "What?!"

No, but seriously, I'll just stick to moisturizer and maybe some Retin-A but no fillers. I mean, who am I, Meg Ryan?

Malala Yousafzai: I am honoured to have won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014. I resolve this year to continue being one of the most inspirational people on the planet.

Perhaps in 2015 I will try improving the world further by posting a no-makeup selfie. I can only hope to be so brave.

Justin Bieber: 2015: Girls, peeing, mop-buckets, eggs, depositions, yo. Peace.

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SCENE 2015: BACK TO THE FUTURE

Marty!! Are we any closer to trying your hoverboard?

Back to the Future 2 year is nigh. 2015 will bring us into the movie's future minus the DeLorean so let's do some comparisons

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

It's time, everybody. We're finally reaching 2015, the future presented in the 1989 sequel Back to the Future II that was full of auto-drying jackets, freeze-dried pizza and hoverboards.

So now is about as good a time as any to take stock and see how we're doing with the technological advancements predicted in the film.

I think we would all like Marty's hoverboard to arrive sooner than later. HANDOUT

Hoverboards
It looked like we almost had this a year ago, but it turned out to be a Funny or Die hoax that Tony Hawk was in on. He's back again saying for real he's really tried one out, but we're finding it hard to trust again. Besides, if Segways never really took off, what hope do hoverboards have?

Flying cars
Possibly the biggest gripe people today have about the future we were all promised. Way to continue that wave of disappointment, Back to the Future II.

Food hydrators
Still not sure exactly how this technology is supposed to rejuvenate and enlarge a hockey puck-sized frozen pizza, but that's beside the point. The film apparently predicted that Black & Decker would still be the reigning kitchen gadget company of the future. Boy, were they wrong.

Giant in-wall video conferencing
In the film, they basically combine giant home flat-screen TVs and Skype. They even had the foresight to predict the massive, industry-wide aspect ratio change to widescreen.

Nike Air Mags
Nike actually released a replica version of these totally boss high-tops in 2011, but they weren't actually self-lacing, so really what's the point? We're stilling bending down to tie our shoes like our parents and grandparents.

Flying automated news cameras
This one's not that far off, actually, given the rise of consumer-level remote-control drones and GoPro cameras. So good work, movie.

Double neckties
Thank God these never caught on. The less said about this bizarre fashion choice, the better.

Tiring online pranksters

What gives, Internet?

For several years running, online pranksters have been following a bizarre pattern of behaviour: Taking the image of Doc Brown's upgraded DeLorean dashboard from Back to the Future II, modifying it to show a different date and posting it online with the caption, "Today is the day Marty McFly travelled in time to in the future!" Only it's not. That day is Oct. 21, 2015. But that hasn't stopped countless Photoshop-happy fiends from misleading people on Twitter and Facebook, starting in 2010.

SCENE 2015: MUSIC

The next wave of soul, grunge and pop stars

This time last year, Sam Smith — now a six-time Grammy nominee — was just beginning to gain attention, and Banks' acclaimed debut album Goddess was still more than a half-year away. What artists are next in line for a breakout year come 2015?

scene@metronews.ca

Josef Salvat

You likely know this Australian-born, London-based singer from his stripped-down take on Rihanna's Diamonds. He released the EP In Your Prime in 2014 and he has a debut album of his soulful electro-pop on the way.
Listen to: Open Season

Låpsley

Success is coming quickly for teenage soul-folk singer-songwriter-producer Holly Fletcher, a.k.a. Låpsley. Shortly after debuting on the scene, the Liverpool, U.K. native signed to XL Recordings, home of Adele and The xx, and she's got a debut EP, Understudy, due Jan. 5.
Listen to: Falling Short

Black Honey

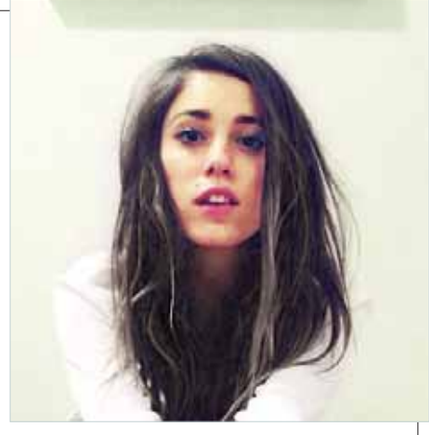
Not much is known about the Brighton, U.K. band Black Honey, whose music so far consists of a handful of demos. Those demos, though, are promising — powerful female vocals over lush, surf-rock instrumentals.
Listen to: Sleep Forever

Wolf Alice

Another hotly tipped band that's already achieved some fame through live shows, especially in their native U.K. The grunge rock band from London debuted in 2013 with the single Fluffy and just put out an EP, Creature Songs, in May.
Listen to: Moaning Lisa Smile

Vérité

New York's Vérité came onto the scene in July with her pure, punchy alternative pop. She released a debut EP, Echo, in October, and we look forward to what 2015 will bring.
Listen to: Strange



Ryn Weaver

New York/L.A.-based Ryn Weaver released her first pop single in June to viral success, thanks in part to a tweet from Jessie Ware and shout-outs from Passion Pit's Michael Angelakos, Benny Blanco, Cashmere Cat and Charli XCX. An album is in the works.
Listen to: OctaHate

Others to watch

- **James Bay.** The British singer-songwriter has had a noteworthy 2014 in the U.K., and earned the promising Brits Critics' Choice award. Listen to: Hold Back the River.
- **Shura.** London singer Aleksandra Denton, a.k.a. Shura, has won over many critics with her cutting-edge synth-pop evoking '80s and '90s greats such as Madonna. Listen to: Touch.
- **Years & Years.** You'd be hard-pressed to find a "ones to watch" list that didn't include this breakout British R&B group, led by Olly Alexander (who is also an actor). Listen to: Desire.
- **Tourist.** This London-based electronic producer, a.k.a. William Phillips, has drawn praise for remixes of Haim and Sam Smith. Listen to: Patterns. AFP

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SCENE 2015: MOVIES

10 BLOCKBUSTER NIGHTS:

Just because Hollywood is still in the grip of Awards Season, that doesn't mean we can't start getting excited about what the next 12 months have in store for movie fans. While we have to wait to see what indie and prestigious fare shake out of Sundance, Cannes and the rest of the festival circuit, you can mark your calendars with these now.

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

1 Jupiter Ascending.

Feb. 6

It's encouraging to know that after not nearly enough people gave Cloud Atlas a shot, Larry and Lana Wachowski aren't playing it safe. Instead, they're doubling down on the bizarre and grandiose science-fiction fare that they're known for. Give Channing Tatum's wolf ears a chance.

Jupiter Ascending, starring Mila Kunis, opens in theatres this February. HANDOUT

2 The Last Five Years.

Feb. 19

While this musical starring Anna Kendrick and Jeremy Jordan isn't necessarily the best date movie — it chronicles a couple falling in and painfully out of love — it's definitely a better Valentine's Day choice than Fifty Shades of Gray.

Anna Kendrick stars in the breakup movie The Last Five Years. GETTY IMAGES

A new installment in Marvel's Avengers franchise is coming out in May. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

3 Avengers: Age of Ultron.

May 1.

Let's face it, all these Marvel movies are cool and all — and 2014's two entries were very, very cool — but it's all fun and games until Joss Whedon returns to the scene with the studio's flagship. Bonus points for James Spader voicing an evil killer robot. Even if you're suffering from Superhero Movie Fatigue, at least make room for the cream of the crop.

4 Mad Max: Fury Road.

May 15.

It's been a pretty depressing few years of attempted revamps of '80s action franchises — Total Recall and Robocop come painfully to mind, and yet another Terminator movie looks like the worst yet — but this? This gives us hope. Mostly because Road Warrior guru George Miller is behind the wheel. And because of that jaw-dropping trailer.

HOT FILMS TO SEE IN 2015

5 Tomorrowland. May 22.

We're not really sure what's going on with this movie, and that's part of what makes it so exciting. George Clooney, a young female protagonist and Brad Bird directing? Count us in. Let's just hope co-writer and Lost alum Damon Lindelof doesn't let us down.

6 Jurassic World. June 12.

This might be a terrible, terrible mistake, but we're willing to be cautiously optimistic. For now, at least. Director Colin Trevorrow's previous indie work gives us some hope, as does Chris Pratt on a motorcycle flanked by velociraptors. Come on, Pratt. Don't let us down.

Chris Pratt stars in Jurassic World, opening next summer. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Check out the trailer for Mad Max: Fury Road and you'll see why this movie will be one to watch in 2015. HANDOUT

7 Inside Out. June 19.

Here's all you need to know about Inside Out. It's Pixar's first original movie in years, and it's about different personified emotions fighting each other for control of a young girl. Right?

Pixar's Inside Out is out in June. HANDOUT

8 Pan. July 24.

Again, some cautious optimism. But director Joe Wright has earned the benefit of the doubt with his spectacular and varied work on Pride and Prejudice, Atonement and Hannah. But still, a "Peter Pan origin story" sounds like a very cynical, Hollywood idea.

Pan opens July 24. HANDOUT

9 Spectre. Nov. 6.

The closer we get to the end of the year, the less convincing we need to get excited for big releases. Case in point: The next James Bond film, with Skyfall director Sam Mendes sticking around for another go. They've barely been filming a month and it's due in theatres in November. You've got to at least admire the work ethic.

10 Star Wars: The Force Awakens. Dec. 18.

No other 2015 film really embodies the term "anticipated" quite like this one. The more bits of information J.J. Abrams lets out, the more secure we feel in its awesomeness. It's going to be one crazy Christmas.

J.J. Abrams will direct Star Wars Episode 7, opening next Christmas. HANDOUT

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Consider what the performer would prefer: that you pay attention to the art they put their blood and sweat into, or that you play with your phone during their set? ISTOCK

LIFE 3

LIFE 2015: SOCIAL ETIQUETTE

If you didn't do it in 2005, you shouldn't do it now

Bad behaviours. Internet culture has permeated our habits and changed how we treat each other — and not in a good way

KATE CARRAWAY
For Metro

Looking for a New Year's resolution? OK, probably not. But you may have spent 2014 participating in one (or, let's be honest, *more*) of these bad, or just sort-of bad, behaviours. So here's what you might want to resolve to quit doing in 2015.

Public Transit

It's time for a definitive ruling on public-transit behaviour — especially mid-winter, when we're packed in more than usual. Can we finally agree that it's always inappropriate to do any kind of grooming on transit?

The nail trimming obviously has to go (the fact that people do this at all will remain a mystery of my lifetime), but I'm also not thrilled to see hair being brushed or lips being glossed or, especially, perfume being applied.

Similarly, eating food — I'm talking take-out, sandwiches, anything with a scent and a personality — is giving your fellow passengers a sensory experience they didn't ask for.

Sneaking a quick face-check via iPhone camera before arriving at your destination, or having a few bites of a granola bar, is permissible, but if you're really givin' 'er, rethink it.

'Compliments'

Street harassment was a hotter-than-usual topic in 2014, in part thanks to that viral video of a woman being catcalled as she walked around New York.

It probably came as a surprise to some people (men and women alike) that while just saying "hello" to someone on the street might be done with good intentions, it's not always taken that way (especially when it's the 10th thing a stranger has said to you that day).

It's easy to forget that everyone is having their own individual experience, and imposing ourselves on that experience through unwanted conversation of any kind is straight-up rude.

Let's resolve to pay attention to other people's signals, and not assume that everyone is up for a question, a compliment, or even a "hi."

Posting

With so many news stories unfolding in real time and being posted on social media, there's a huge opportunity to do it wrong. Huge.

Before posting your opinion — especially if you know less about that issue than other people in your social networks — take a beat, and ask yourself if you really have anything to contribute.

If not, maybe do something else, something positive, with the instinct to weigh in.

Of course, we're all entitled to post whatever we want on our own pages, but good etiquette involves always thinking about how we're creating and affecting other people's experiences.

Not adding something to an existing online cacophony is an easy, subtle way to be polite.

Transit gripe

"Eating food — I'm talking take-out, sandwiches, anything with a scent and a personality — is giving your fellow passengers a sensory experience they didn't ask for."

Phone Etiquette

In a movie theatre…
My personal choice for No. 1 worst-ever phone-etiquette foul is using a phone, even just to look at it just for a second, in a movie theatre.

Here's the rule: It's just fine to text, check Twitter, whatever, during the previews, but that thing better be off — *off*-off — before the feature starts. The glow of the screen is super-obvious in a dark theatre, not just to people behind you, but to everyone on either side, all the way to the back. The only time it's OK to use your phone during a movie is if you're in the very back row, and no one else is. Got it? Good.

At a concert…
It's become common practice in the age of smartphones, YouTube, Vine and Instagram to document the parts of life that weren't considered particularly notable even a decade ago, or the parts of life that are really better in the moment, like concerts or standup sets.

Taking one of a million grainy clips with terrible sound that end up on the Internet doesn't really have a purpose, anyway, and it's rude — to the performer, to the people you're with, and to the rest of the audience — to ignore what's happening in real time.

Consider which the performer would prefer: that you pay attention to the art they put their blood and sweat into, or that you play with your phone during their set?

On the street, or anywhere…
Camera-phone-culture means it's become common practice to take photos of other people, semi-randomly and without asking. Which is crazy!

Don't take a picture without first asking if it's cool, and definitely don't post a picture of someone else on the Internet. That anyone would ever do this, without the other person's permission, is evidence of how much Internet culture has permeated our habits when it comes to how we treat each other.

When in doubt in 2015, think of what you might have done in 2005 — or 1995 — for guidance.

LIFE 2015: FOOD TRENDS

5 ways to boost your health

Everything old is new again! As cultural disconnectedness grows, the search for comfort and cosy becomes critical. Maybe that's why these coming trends are so reminiscent of the past.

THERESA ALBERT
myfriendinfood.com

1 The REAL deal

ALL PHOTOS ISTOCK

If Loblaws is doing it, you know it's a trend that's here to stay, Consumers are choosing foods that are good for their health — looks as though we are finally getting the message that what we do today affects our bodies and quality of life tomorrow. We don't want to "treat" illness, we want to head it off at the pass. All President's Choice products are being (or have been) reformulated to remove artificial colours and flavours ... Let the food improvement competition begin!

2 Your calf is grass

Grass-fed is where it's at. Full-on organic can be cost-prohibitive but we know the fat ratio (Omega 3:6:9) is in better balance when your animal is grass-fed. Not to mention the taste is more honest. With companies like Rolling Meadow rolling out grass-fed butter (tastes just like grandma's), yogurt and milk, and Natural Life Choices serving up grass-fed hotdogs, burgers and sausages, you can really go whole hog with the grassy trend.

3 Alternative protein

Let's face it, some of us find the gluten-free trend unappealing. But our high-carb, low-protein diets are killing us. Now protein is finding its way into everything, and perhaps the most comforting trend comes in the form of fresh pasta that is low-cal, high-fibre and high-protein — it's sweeping us off our feet. Look for Skinny Pasta in the refrigerated section of your grocery store and never look back.

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4 Rise of the humble sap

The whole world is hugging the maple tree as it turns its back on sugar. This sweetener is showing up in everything from yogurt to doughnuts, in spreads and coffees — meaning the humble sap is taking its place in the limelight. Wear a smudge of it on your cheek with pride.

5 Fermented friend

Keffir is the new Greek yogurt, for sure, but what else can you do (deliciously) to contribute to a healthy gut? Kimchi, sauerkraut and tempeh are all fermented foods that deliver other strains of probiotics and food to feed them with.

THERESA ALBERT IS A FOOD COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST AND TORONTO PERSONAL NUTRITIONIST. SHE IS @THERESAALBERT ON TWITTER AND FOUND DAILY AT MYFRIENDINFOOD.COM

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Kilometres: 10,067 km
Stock #: DEMO 14759
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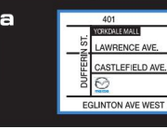


LIFE 2015: HOROSCOPES

SALLY BROMPTON
toronto@metronews.ca

What the stars hold for you

Aries (March 21 to April 20)

You are rarely slow to assert yourself, either in your personal life or in your career, and both the solar eclipse on March 20 and the lunar eclipse on Sept. 28 suggest you will be even more active and ambitious than usual this year. That's great — you are sure to go far — but don't forget that even ultra-competitive Aries need to recharge their batteries once in a while. Jupiter's move into the well-being area of your chart on Aug. 11 will encourage you to take up some sort of relaxation or meditation technique. You will need it!

Taurus (April 21 to May 21)

Is there something you have neglected to do? More to the point, is there someone you still need to resolve certain issues with? According to the planets there is, and 2015 is the year to sort it out once and for all. Saturn's return to the relationship area of your chart in June will encourage you to do it. Jupiter in your fellow Earth sign of Virgo from Aug. 11 promises great things creatively and, yes, romantically, but only if you do something about all those emotional loose ends. The final four months of the year should be truly spectacular.

Gemini (May 22 to June 21)

Venus and Mars, the relationship planets, join the sun in the most adventurous area of your chart on Feb. 20, so if you are in the market for love you won't have to wait long to find it. Existing relationships will improve as well, especially if you use your imagination and make an effort to spice things up. Saturn in your opposite sign will bring challenges, especially in the closing months of 2015, but it will also bring opportunities to forge long-term alliances with serious people, the kind of people you need to balance your own carefree attitude to life.

Cancer (June 22 to July 23)

Saturn in the well-being area of your chart means you need to pay more attention to your health — physical, mental and emotional. That may not sound like a lot of fun, but don't worry because with Jupiter moving into one of the more outgoing areas of your chart in August, the second half of the year will bring plenty of social opportunities. What happens around the time of the solar eclipse on Sept. 13 will remind you that it can be just as much fun to travel as to arrive, especially when you are the one in charge of the schedule.

Leo (July 24 to Aug. 23)

A family matter you thought had been amicably resolved will return to vex you this year — especially after Saturn moves back into the domestic area of your chart in June. This time there can be no half-measures and no give and take — stamp your authority on the situation and insist that everyone follows your lead. You may be a nice guy by nature but you are nobody's fool, and anyone who thinks they can manipulate your emotions is in for a rude awakening. Treat yourself to a vacation around the time of the lunar eclipse on Sept. 28 — you will have earned it.

Virgo (Aug. 24 to Sept. 23)

The big news this year is the entry of Jupiter into your sign in August. Jupiter improves your lot on every level, but more importantly it widens your outlook on life, enabling you to see connections and possibilities where previously you could see only stumbling blocks and confusion. Mars in sympathetic Taurus from March 31 to May 12 is also an omen of bigger and better things to come, so start making plans and don't let the past limit you in any way, shape or form. Think of 2015 as a new beginning, and don't waste a single day of it.

Libra (Sept. 24 to Oct. 23)

Venus, your ruler, teams up with Mars in late February to create the perfect cosmic environment for love to blossom. If there is someone you want to get close to romantically, don't wait for them to make the first move — spell it out and let them know you think the two of you together would make the perfect couple. Career-wise, July is the best month to let employers and senior colleagues know you want a better deal, or you will seek pastures new. Make your demands when Mars links with Mercury on July 16 — it's unlikely they will refuse you.

Scorpio (Oct. 24 to Nov. 22)

You have so many big ideas, but you don't seem to be doing much with them. Why is that? Most likely it has to do with the influence of Neptune in the most creative area of your chart. Neptune is the planet of imagination but also indecision, so you tend to chop and change for no good reason. Happily, the influence of go-getting Mars will help you to decide what to focus on in 2015. Set your sights high, but more importantly don't change tack halfway through the year. Whatever you start, see it through to the end.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23 to Dec. 21)

Mars in the domestic area of your chart from mid-January to mid-February will help you get your home life in order, and it's important that you do so because later in the year your focus will be on more worldly matters — you certainly won't have time for family dramas. Jupiter spotlights career issues from Aug. 11 onward and it's quite possible that you will change jobs or even go back to school and study for a completely different line of work. It's never too late to move in a new direction, at least not for someone as adventurous as you.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20)

Capricorn may be cautious by nature but it is also a cardinal sign, and that means you always work toward a long-term goal. What happens between the solar eclipse on March 20 and the lunar eclipse on April 4 will bring into focus how successful — or not — you have been in turning your ambitions into concrete achievements, and you may well decide on a top-to-bottom relaunch of your life. That may sound drastic but you don't see the point in doing things on a small scale. The bigger you think and act this year, the more you will accomplish.

Aquarius (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19)

When your ruler Uranus squares up to power planet Pluto in mid-March, you will be thrust into a situation that demands a speedy and decisive response. If someone has been taking advantage of your trusting nature, you must deal with them ruthlessly, not just because they deserve it, but because you need to let everyone know that you are not a soft touch. The remainder of 2015 will be plain sailing and come November, when Mars moves into the most adventurous area of your chart, you may even be sailing for distant shores. Life should always be an adventure.

Pisces (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20)

Your self-assurance will increase this year — especially around the time of the solar eclipse on March 20, which only just falls in your birth sign but will still do wonders for your confidence. And that's good because a lot of people will be depending on you. The year's other solar eclipse on Sept. 13 suggests you will be called on to fill a leadership role of some sort, one in which you can use your intuition and compassion to bring together people who might otherwise waste time in needless competition. You sense it is time to leave the old divisions of "us" and "them" behind.

World juniors at home is the best gift of all

Five reasons why. This holiday season, watch the daring Danes, the frustrated Swedes and cheer on Canada's young guns

KRISTEN LIPSCOMBE
kristen.lipscombe@metronews.ca

Team Canada players stretch at selection camp on Dec. 15 in St. Catharines, Ont. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

With hanging wreaths and wrapping presents comes another important holiday tradition — world juniors.

Here are five reasons to watch the 2015 IIHF world junior championship, starting Boxing Day and concluding with medal games on Jan. 5:

5. Daring Denmark
Denmark may not be the top team at the rink, but will be interesting to watch. The country has earned its way back into the world's best junior tournament after winning gold in the 2014 IIHF U20 World Championship Division I Group. The daring Danes are serious about competing, and they used the World Junior A Challenge, held earlier this month in Kindersley, Sask., as a world juniors warm-up. It's a family affair for head coach Olaf Eller, whose son Mads plays forward for him, and won the 2014 Memorial Cup with the Edmonton Oil Kings.

4. NHL star power
Many junior-age NHL players jump at the chance to wear their country's colours on the ice, and Canadian Anthony Duclair is no exception. The New York Rangers have released him so he can re-join Team Canada at the world juniors. Players such as Jonathan Drouin of the Tampa Bay Lightning, Aaron Ekblad of the Florida Panthers and Nathan MacKinnon of the Colorado Avalanche are staying in the big leagues.

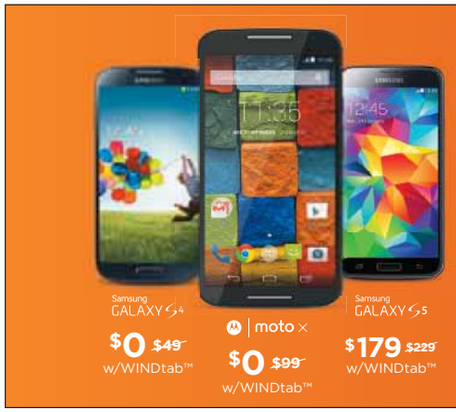
3. Swedish vengeance
Sweden is sick of silver. After losing to the U.S. in the 2013 final and falling 3-2 in overtime to rivals Finland in last year's championship game, nothing less than gold will do for the frustrated-with-second-place Swedes. Perhaps more so for forward Jacob de la Rose and defenceman Robert Hägg, who represented their country at both of those world junior disappointments. They have a good chance of getting what they want. Both have also been improving in North America this season, de la Rose with the AHL's Hamilton Bulldogs and Hagg with the AHK's Leigh Valley Phantoms.

2. Russian Wildcats
Forward duo Ivan Barbashev and Vladimir Tkachev aren't just teammates on their country's national junior team, they're also former teammates on the Moncton Wildcats of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League. Yep, a couple of Russian kids have honed their skills together, in the middle of our Maritime provinces. Although Vladimir Tkachev was traded earlier this month to the Quebec Remparts, both like the QMJHL style of play and because of that experience, will be comfortable on the North American-sized ice surfaces in Toronto and Montreal. These two Q-league imports intend to improve on Russia's two straight bronze medals, and reclaim gold-medal bragging rights.

1. It's at home!
Hockey folks know that fans in the stands can become the all important "seventh player" on the ice for the home team, so Canada has a clear advantage this year, since the tournament is taking place in Montreal and Toronto. Whether you're watching on your tablet or television, or seeing it unfold live at Bell Centre or Air Canada Centre, game action will be impacted by an awesome atmosphere, and your cheers for the red and white could make a difference on the road to gold.

For updates, go to metronews.ca

4 SPORTS



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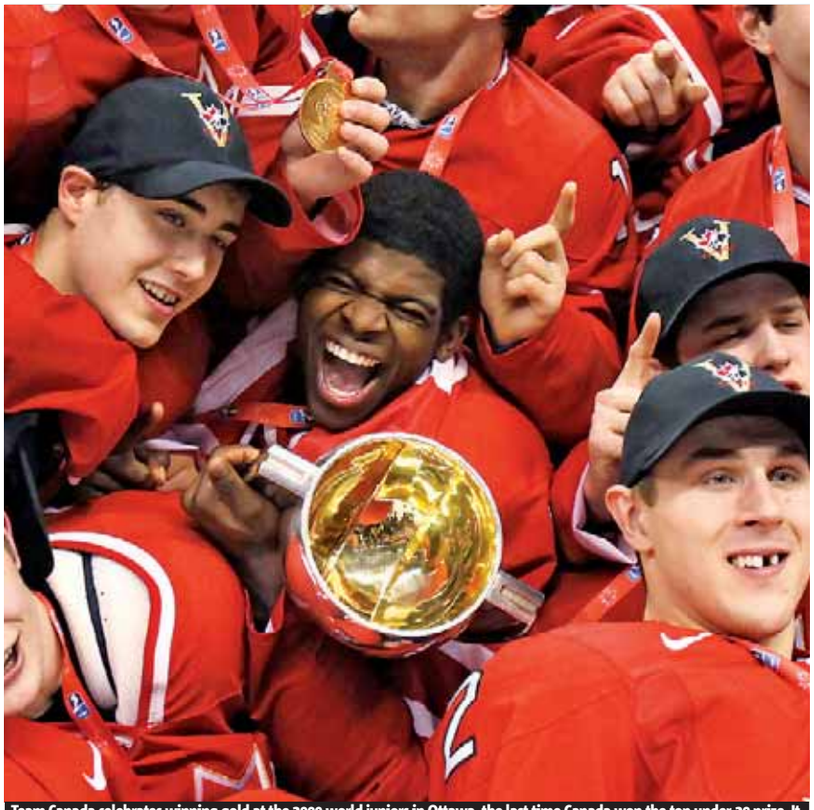

Team Canada celebrates winning gold at the 2009 world juniors in Ottawa, the last time Canada won the top under-20 prize. It was Canada's fifth straight championship. TOM HANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Let's hope this year starts a medal feast

Peaks and troughs. Five golden years preceded five goldless years so a turnaround is due

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca

For Canada, when it comes to winning gold at the IIHF world junior championship, it's been feast or famine.

The last time Canada won the under-20 tournament was 2009 in Ottawa. The late Pat Quinn was behind the bench. That capped off a run of five straight gold medals for the red and white, a feat the nation also celebrated in the mid-1990s.

But since Ottawa, Canada's world junior team has fallen on hard times. Five years without gold. No medals in each of the last two competitions. Break out the inevitable wisecracks about Canada needing a mass summit of brilliant minds and big names to cure what ails our game and restore the nation's place in hockey greatness.

This drought isn't unprecedented, but you'd have to go all the way back to the early 1980s, the days of Soviet Union domination in hockey, when Canada had a run of two or more years of finishing without a medal.

This year's tournament, starting Boxing Day, takes place in Toronto and Montreal — two of Canada's largest, most historic hockey markets. There's nowhere to hide. The pressure on Canada's junior team has always been great. It will be greater this time around. The feeling has long been anything short of gold in this tournament is a failure. Maybe that's unfair.

It's turned into a tradition for hockey fans coast to coast, tuning in during the holiday season, skipping work — sorry, "calling in sick" — to watch.

The world juniors have long since been a staple on TSN, and since that network lost its NHL broadcast deal, this tournament is sure to garner more focus from a television aspect, especially because, well, Toronto.

The last time Canada broke out of its gold-medal funk — back in 2005 — Sidney Crosby was on the team. The 2014-15 team has teenage phenom Connor McDavid. A sign, perhaps?

Details

Canada has been drawn into a tough Group A against the U.S., Finland, Slovakia and Germany in Montreal. Group B, played at Toronto's ACC, consists of Russia, Sweden, Czech Republic, Switzerland and Denmark. Here's a look at Canada's group stage games:

- **Fri., Dec. 26 vs. Slovakia**
- **Sat., Dec. 27 vs. Germany**
- **Mon., Dec. 29, vs. Finland**
- **Wed., Dec. 31, vs. U.S.**

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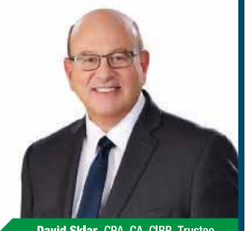
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→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
If you are nice to someone who does not deserve it today you will benefit in unexpected ways early in the new year. People in positions of authority will single you out for bigger things.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Try not to waste money on things you do not need. It may not bother you now but in a few weeks time you may regret having been so free and easy with your cash.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Keep personal info to yourself today. You may be tempted to bare your soul and let a certain person in but the planets warn that is not a good idea.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
It may be obvious that a loved one is keeping something from you but there is a good reason. This is one of those occasions when it really is better that you don't know what is going on.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
If someone in a position of authority wants you to do something for them today then most likely you will have no choice in the matter. Make it the best thing you've ever done.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
There is something you want to do with your life but it means giving up so much of what you already know. Is it worth it?

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
If you try to help someone out but they reject your offer, don't take it personally. Most likely they are under such pressure that they can't think straight.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
According to the planets, a loved one is getting emotional for no good reason and it is up to you to calm them down and help them see sense again.

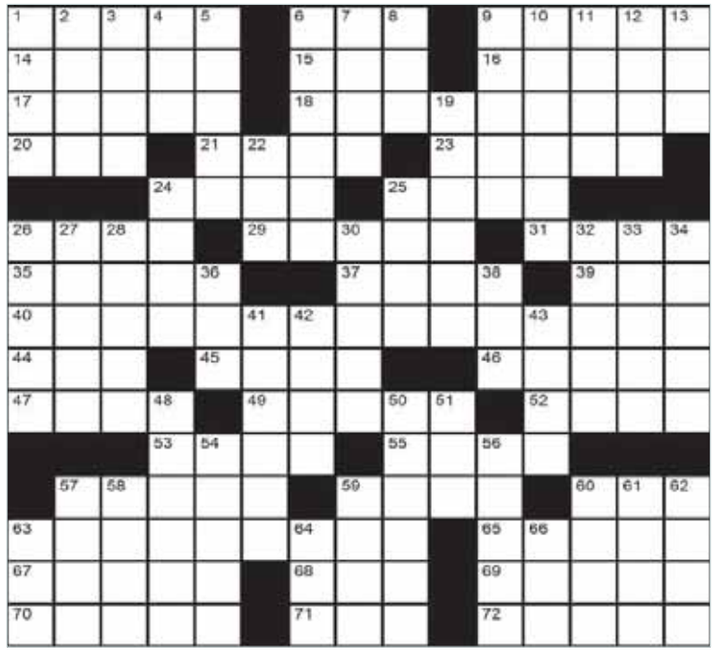
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
There is no such thing as a sure thing. Keep that in mind today — you won't go wrong. Certainly not as wrong as some of your friends, who seem to think they can do as they please.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You should be doing more with your talents. You have what it takes to make a mark on the world, so step into the light. Do something out of the ordinary.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You like to be controversial but watch out you don't push it a little too far today and annoy someone you should try to stay on good terms with.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Neptune in your birth sign means you are at your best when you let the caring side of your nature come to the fore. Don't worry that some might take advantage of you — that's a problem for their conscience.

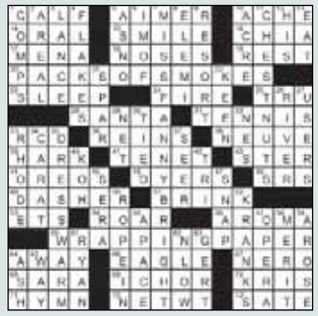
Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



Across
1. December 26th: They draw customers to stores
6. 4 qts.
9. Comedian Drew
14. Hero of Upper Canada, Sir __ Brock (b.1769 - d.1812)
15. 'Select' suffix
16. Jane Eyre was her governess
17. Laboratory dish
18. Bargains: 2 wds.
20. Freelancer's encl.
21. Move like a river
23. Pup's protests!
24. Soap brand
25. __-aging cream
26. The ___ (Nickname of Montreal's 1976 Summer Olympics stadium)
29. Type of snake
31. Charity contributions
35. Hasn't _ __ (Doesn't realize)
37. Supplier for Wile E. Coyote
39. Nodful word
40. Boxing Day, to many: 2 wds.
44. Belonging to Sioux City's li'l state
45. Nylons nick
46. Lifetime series, "Devious __"
47. US crash-investigating agcy.
49. Washer and __
52. Sailboat part
53. Larger-than-life
55. Coat, as with plaster
57. Scottish comedian Mr. Ferguson
59. Adhere
60. Barenaked Ladies song: "Be My Yoko __"
63. Place to eat at the mall: 2 wds.
65. Lifeboat lowering crane
67. Sidewalk artist's tool
68. City of Brazil, with Paulo
69. Decree
70. Canadian rock band, __ Hatch
71. Always, fancy-style
72. Beverly Hills' __ Drive

Down
1. Has the beverage bit-by-bit
2. "...or to take arms against _ __ of troubles..." - Hamlet
3. Behind
4. Head hearer
5. Movie genre
6. Richard Gere flick, "American __" (1980)
7. Profess
8. The Lion
9. Military trainee
10. George Clooney's sister
11. Gather
12. Building extensions
13. Nod's meaning
19. Go-getter
22. Quebec locale, __-Beauport
24. Fasten, as shoelaces: 2 wds.
25. Shoe prop, __ support
26. Drainage __
27. Apple instant messaging application
28. Makeup kit item
30. Like oversized clothing
32. Actress Ms. Cornell
33. Honey drinks
34. Speak, archaically
36. Mini-albums, commonly
38. Street for Freddy
41. Canadian bookstore
42. Drug deal buster, commonly
43. Poetic foot
48. Mr. Bumble's gig in Oliver Twist
50. Newspaper VIP
51. Sprinted
54. Fussy
56. Bovid bag
57. Small salmon
58. Horse hue
59. Highlands hillside
60. Roman love poet
61. Pleasant
62. "The Simpsons" bus driver
63. US broadcasting regulator
64. "What's the __?" (Why bother)
66. Commotion

Dec. 24's Crossword



Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

5	1	9						
4					3			
3				7				
			3	6			2	
		8	1		5	9		
	6			8	7			
				9				4
			2					5
						7	9	6

Dec. 24's Sudoku

4	8	6	1	5	9	2	3	7
7	5	2	6	3	4	9	1	8
9	1	3	2	7	8	4	6	5
5	6	4	9	2	7	1	8	3
8	9	7	3	4	1	5	2	6
2	3	1	8	6	5	7	4	9
1	2	5	7	8	6	3	9	4
3	4	8	5	9	2	6	7	1
6	7	9	4	1	3	8	5	2

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